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IT'S WHAT SUNDAYS ARE ALL ABOUT

No. 283 February 24, 2008

INSIDE

YOUR FREE SPRING GUIDE

WIN

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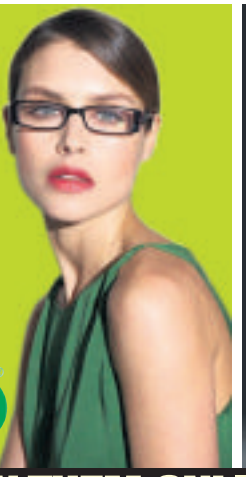

RIDE ON

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DEFEATED

AGAINST: (Left to right) Tories Daniel Hannan, Nirj Deva and Richard Ashworth, Ukip leader Nigel Farage, the Greens' Caroline Lucas and independent Ashley Mote lost in Strasbourg (below)

Your MEPs lose vote to stop controversial Euro treaty

A CRUCIAL vote in favour of the EU Reform Treaty was passed this week – despite most Kent Euro-MPs voting against it.

The European Parliament voted overwhelmingly to approve the treaty on Wednesday, but six out of 10 South East MEPs were among those who opposed it.

Critics claim the treaty is practically the same as the abandoned EU Constitution and will hand over some of Britain's important sovereign powers to Brussels.

Conservatives Daniel Hannan, Nirj Deva and Richard Ashworth, Ukip leader Nigel Farage, Green Party representative Caroline Lucas and independent Ashley Mote all voted against the treaty. Labour's Peter Skinner and the Liberal Democrat's Sharon Bowles voted in favour, while Lib Dem Baroness Emma Nicholson of Winterbourne and Tory James Elles were not present.

By **PHIL REILLY** in Strasbourg

There were also two main protests taking place at the parliament in Strasbourg, both organised by South East MEPs, who represent the region of the UK that is closest to the Continent.

Ukip supporters, led by Mr Farage, dressed in chicken suits and yellow T-shirts outside the parliament, while the Conservative contingent and their small band of supporters held a more civilised protest.

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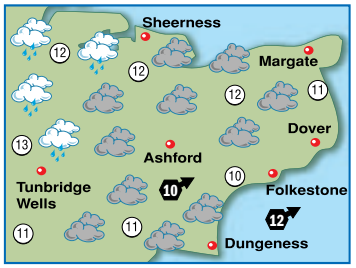
Kent today



TODAY: It will be dry and bright to start, but turning increasingly cloudy through the day, with light rain or drizzle during the afternoon and evening. Gentle south-westerly winds. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F).
TONIGHT: Light rain will clear to the south-east through the night. Gentle winds. Min temp 4-7C (39-45F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	fair	10	50	London	rain	9	48
Belfast	cloudy	12	54	Liverpool	cloudy	12	54
Birmingham	showers	8	46	Manchester	rain	11	52
B'mouth	cloudy	11	52	Newcastle	cloudy	10	50
Bristol	cloudy	10	50	Norwich	cloudy	13	55
Cardiff	cloudy	11	52	Oxford	cloudy	12	54
Cork	showers	9	48	Southsea	cloudy	11	52
Edinburgh	showers	9	48	S'hampton	rain	9	48
Glasgow	rain	9	48	Southport	sun	–	–
Isle of Man	rain	9	48	Swansea	cloudy	10	50
Leeds	drizzle	10	50	Torquay	cloudy	11	52

Sun & moon

Sunrise	6.53am	Sunset	5.25pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	9.46pm	Moonset	7.37am	5.25pm to 6.51am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	00.45	6.8	13.03	6.4	01.18	6.7	13.33	6.3
Margate	01.50	4.7	14.18	4.5	02.21	4.7	14.45	4.4
St Mary's	06.36	5.6	18.51	5.4	07.06	5.4	19.22	5.2

Week ahead

monday Dry. Bright max 10C min 6C
tuesday Dull. Rain max 12C min 5C
wednesday Sunny spells max 11C min 6C
thursday Rain later on max 9C min 3C
friday Showers, heavy max 7C min 3C
saturday Showers later max 6C min 2C

Murdered Suffolk prostitute had link to Kent

ONE victim of Suffolk Strangler Steve Wright, Paula Clennell, had an uncontrollable need to fund her drug addiction, according to the father of her three children.

Elton Norris, who lives in Folkestone, knew the prostitute after she moved in with him aged 16.

The pair started taking cocaine, according to national newspaper reports, which also stated Ms Clennell started selling her body to finance her habit.

Mr Norris said: "It was the only way she could fund her addiction. Some weeks she could blow thousands of pounds on drugs."

When Kent on Sunday knocked at Mr Norris' door this week a reporter was told by a man at the address: "He's not here at the moment."

Before she died Ms Clennell said she had to continue working to feed her heroin and cocaine use – even though it was known a serial killer was on the loose.

Using the assumed name of 'Kelly' she told a TV interviewer: "It makes me sick to the stomach, but if you need the money badly, it's better than going out thieving."

After the TV appearance, Ms Clennell was dead 72 hours later.

Ms Clennell grew up in Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, before her parents, civil engineer Brian and mother Isabella divorced.

She started experimenting with cannabis before moving on to harder drugs.

Her lifestyle led to her three children being taken into care.

In a letter to her mother just weeks before her murder in December 2006 she said she was dreading Christmas.

"Instead of being a happy day of joy and togetherness it's only a dark, lonely and depressing day."

Ms Clennell's life ended very soon afterwards and her body was found dumped on scrubland on December 10.

Wright was sentenced to a life term on Friday for the murders of five prostitutes during a six-week killing spree.

MP says letter of thanks is just 'brazen hypocrisy'

THE leader of Kent County Council wrote to Communities Secretary Hazel Blears thanking her for tackling the authority's concerns about funding, Kent on Sunday can reveal.

EXCLUSIVE

By **JAMIE McGINNES**

In a letter from Cllr Paul Carter, dated December 12, 2007, he thanked the Labour politician on a range of funding issues.

Kent Labour MP Stephen Ladyman claimed the leaked letter showed the Tory council leader's "brazen hypocrisy" when compared with Cllr Carter's regular attacks on the Government over funding.

This week, Cllr Carter blamed the cost of caring for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children for a council tax increase of nearly four per cent.

He said: "The Government's refusal to meet these costs in full has left the council with no choice but to keep the council tax increase at 3.9 per cent."

But in the letter, headed Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2008-11, Cllr Carter wrote: "I write to express my thanks for your department and your ministers. Whilst we have undoubtedly been quick to comment and criticise where we believe errors or unfairness have crept in, it is only right and proper that we equally recognise when corrective action has been taken to address those concerns."

Cllr Carter went on to thank Ms Blears for:

- Providing for the first time a 'firm' three-year settlement;
- Giving floor funding protection for three years that "ensures all authorities get at least some additional cash resource"
- A provisional settlement that "directs most resource towards authorities with upper tier responsibilities, which begins to recognise the particular pressures facing those authorities – demographics of an increasingly elderly population, waste management costs, children's services pledges, highways maintenance backlogs etc"
- Providing 'transparency' in grants.

In the letter, Cllr Carter added: "To balance our budget we will continue to look at having to deliver efficiencies and savings of £30-40 million per annum – a challenge we are more than up for as an excellent authority with a deserved reputation for delivering value for money."

When the letter was put to him, Dr Ladyman, MP for South Thanet and a vice-chairman of the Labour Party, said: "It demonstrates brazen hypocrisy. He's been saying things in public, attacking the Government at every given opportunity and whipping up people in Kent to believe this line that their money has been sent north and Kent has been treated poorly in order for northern counties to get more money.

"All along he's known Kent has been treated extremely generously."

Dr Ladyman added: "The least you can expect from a responsible council leader is to give government credit where it's due.

"Instead he's decided to play politics.

"When he says in public that the council's been shortchanged we need to ask ourselves if in private he's saying something completely different."

But Cllr Carter, said Dr Ladyman's comments were "absolutely outrageous".

He added: "We've still got a pretty unbearable settlement and we can just about live with it.

"Rather than always writing letters to ministers beating them up, when they actually yield on some of the issues we're lobbying them on, they need some recognition."

Cllr Carter pointed out that he had written many "pretty strongly worded letters" to different ministers.

He said that if more funds were provided for asylum-seeking children, he would write "a gushing letter of thanks".

Research institute backs up threat of bluetongue

SCIENTISTS have warned that farms in the South East will be vulnerable to the bluetongue virus from the middle of April.

The warning comes from the Institute for Animal Research (IAR). Earlier this month, Kent on Sunday reported that a vaccine may not be available in time.

As asserted in the KoS article by the Institute for Animal Health, the new research suggests that midges carrying the disease are likely to become prevalent weeks before the vaccine is available in mid to late May.

The virus, which mostly affects sheep, but can also prove deadly to cattle, is spread by midges largely dormant over the winter.

It cannot be transferred to humans, but it is feared an outbreak could devastate the UK's livestock industry.

The IAR has produced a map showing when the disease is likely to begin spreading in Britain. It predicts it will start to spread in the South East from April 21.

Last summer's outbreak was relatively small compared with ones on the Continent, with around 70 cases reported in the UK, including several in Kent.

However, some European experienced 1,000 per cent increases in the number of cases confirmed in the next year after the original outbreak, prompting the UK Government to order the vaccine.

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Dan's the man

Star leading Brit charge at Oscars, says critic

By **PHIL REILLY**
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

DANIEL Day-Lewis is the "nailed-on favourite" for the Best Actor gong in what should be a good night for British talent, according to one of the country's top film critics.

Day-Lewis, 50, who was raised in Greenwich and schooled in Sevenoaks, has been widely touted by critics as the man to beat ahead of the ceremony this evening.

Derek Malcolm, film critic for the Evening Standard and the Guardian, is backing the highly regarded actor to repeat the success he achieved with 1989's My Left Foot.

Mr Malcolm, from Sholden, near Deal, is also confident that the British contingent will have much to celebrate.

He is tipping Julie Christie for Best Actress and is also full of praise for University of Kent alumnus Tom Wilkinson, 59, and Tilda Swinton, 47, who went to school in the county.

Chilling

Day-Lewis is nominated for his chilling portrayal of an oilman in Paul Thomas Anderson's There Will Be Blood.

It is a role that has already won him a Golden Globe and a Bafta, but he faces stiff competition from the likes of George Clooney, James McAvoy, Viggo Mortensen and Ulrich Muhe.

Wilkinson is nominated for Best Supporting Actor for his role in Michael Clayton, while Swinton, who went to West Heath Girls' School in Sevenoaks, is up for Best Supporting Actress.

However, according to Mr Malcolm, neither is expected to win.

He told Kent on Sunday: "I think Daniel Day-Lewis is probably the hot favourite - it would be a big surprise if he didn't get it. With Julie Christie the favourite for leading actress as well, I think it is the first time for many years that Brits have had a very good shot at winning both.

"Tom Wilkinson gives a very good performance in Michael Clayton, and what is doubly good is that Tilda Swinton is really good in her part as well.

"They both have a chance, but they are not the favourites.

"For supporting actor the hot favourite is Javier Bardem, and there is also Casey Affleck for The Assassination of Jesse James.

"For supporting actress, Cate Blanchett will be the hot favourite for her role as Bob Dylan in I'm Not There."

For Best Picture, Mr Malcolm says it will be between No Country for Old Men and There Will Be Blood, but not British-made Atonement.

SHOE IN: Daniel Day-Lewis (above) should win Best Actor, and Tom Wilkinson (above left) is a contender for Best Supporting Actor, says film critic Derek Malcolm (left)

He compared Atonement to the English Patient, which won the Best Picture prize in 1996, but said he did not think it would win against the two big American films.

Despite his praise for many British actors this year, Mr Malcolm said he did not rate Keira Knightley's performance in the film.

He added: "Keira Knightley is a star, but because of her beauty rather than her acting."

More news and sport updated daily online
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Pacino to take on 007?

ONE of the biggest names in Hollywood is rumoured to be playing the role of James Bond's nemesis in the upcoming film.

It has yet to be confirmed by producers, but the Hollywood rumour mill is in overdrive suggesting that Al Pacino could be playing the role of the big boss in Quantum of Solace, the sequel to Casino Royale.

The film, based on a short story by Bond creator Ian Fleming, picks up where Casino Royale left off, with Bond pursuing the boss of the terrorist network from the previous film.

Mr Fleming lived for a period in St Margaret's Bay in a house bought from his friend Noel Coward.

BOND BADDIE? Al Pacino

If Mr Pacino is confirmed in the role, he will be sharing screen time with former Gravesend schoolgirl Gemma Arterton.

Miss Arterton, who went to Gravesend Grammar School for Girls before heading to top stage school Rada, will be playing a character called Agent Fields.

The St Trinian's star is not the only Bond girl in the movie, with Ukrainian former model Olga Kurylenko also lined up for a major part.

The film is due to open in cinemas in November.

Ponies die in blaze

TWO miniature ponies have been killed in an arson attack at stables.

The incident happened at Binney Road in Allhallows, Rochester, after 2pm on Friday.

Firefighters rushed to the scene to extinguish the blaze and officers are examining the scene for evidence.It is believed the fire was started deliberately.

Detective Constable Steve Goldsmith said: "This is a cruel and malicious act. Crime scene investigators have been called to the area to gather forensic evidence and detectives have begun their inquiries."

Anyone with information about the incident is urged to contact police on 01634 792413.

Art film up for gong

AN ARTIST filmmaker from Kent has been shortlisted for a prestigious award sponsored by Film London, More4 and the Serpentine Gallery.

Andrew Kötting, who lives in Hastings, is a senior lecturer in time-based media at the Kent Institute of Art and Design in Maidstone.

He has made the final four for the first Jarman Award, which is part of a range of activities and events to mark the artist and filmmaker's life and work.

Derek Jarman, who died in 1994, lived in Dungeness. His films include Caravaggio, Blue and Sebastiane, which are all soon to be shown on More4.

Bromley-born Mr Kötting is joined on the shortlist by Duncan Campbell, Luke Fowler and Emily Wardill.

The winner will be presented with the award and £20,000 prize on April 1, at a presentation at the Serpentine Gallery in London.

Sophie, siren of sea

ITALIAN icon Sophia Loren is christening a new cruise ship being unveiled at a star-studded event at a Kent port.

The Hollywood actress and godmother to the liner will be cracking a bottle of champagne over the MSC Poesia's bow in a midnight ceremony in April.

A host of artistic entertainment will be provided at the glamorous event. Opera legend Andrea Bocelli is set to perform live along with award winning singer songwriter KT Tunstall.

Peter Grant, a young jazz supremo, is also playing with the renowned Ronnie Scott band at the event on April 5 at the Dover Cruise Terminal.

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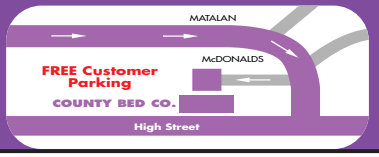

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BBC documentary to air Iraq abuse claims against county's frontline troops

ALLEGATIONS that soldiers from Kent's county regiment tortured and executed Iraqi prisoners are due to be aired in a BBC documentary.

A Panorama documentary to be broadcast tomorrow night examines claims made by Iraqi prisoners captured during the Battle of Danny Boy in southern Iraq in 2004.

They were captured by soldiers from 1st Battalion, the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment, which has its headquarters in Canterbury and recruits many of its soldiers from the county.

It is alleged that of the 20 bodies of dead Iraqis handed over to local authorities the morning after the bloody battle, many had been captured alive and then tortured and killed off the battlefield by British troops.

Similar claims were investigated at length in 2004 and 2005 by the military police, who found no evidence.

The new allegations have been raised by solicitors acting on behalf of five alleged survivors of the battle and are due to be investigated by the Ministry of Defence.

They reportedly include claims that a teenage boy was garrotted and that a man was shot in the back of the head at point blank range.

A BBC spokesman said the programme concludes that "the evidence is strongest that prisoners were mistreated".

By **PHIL REILLY**
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

But he said: "Panorama has spent over a year talking to battlefield survivors, medical staff, and Iraqi former prisoners in Iraq, Turkey and Jordan.

"The programme critically examines claims made by lawyers who are representing the Iraqis in their action against the British Government.

"Panorama has seen no proof that prisoners died at the hands of their captors at or after the battle of Danny Boy."

Judicial review

The battle, named after the checkpoint where it took place, saw the first bayonet charge by British forces in more than two decades.

Julian Brazier, Conservative MP for Canterbury and a former Territorial Army officer said there would have to be "very strong evidence" to warrant a new investigation.

He said: "Clearly, mistreatment of prisoners is unacceptable and the British Army has never allowed it.

"But it seems to me that unless there is very strong new evidence it seems wholly wrong that there should be a second investigation after an extensive first one dismissed the matter.

"Young soldiers sent to Iraq and Afghanistan feel appalling pressures and while atrocities can never be justified I doubt there is any other country in the world that spends as much time checking up what these youngsters are up to."

Mr Brazier added: "One has got to be clear there is a distinction between what's happened in Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay when dealing with prisoners in a prison and an incident at the end of a battle."

An MOD spokesman said: "Allegations of mistreatment, unlawful killing and mutilation by British troops following an incident at Vehicle Checkpoint Danny Boy were thoroughly investigated by the Royal Military Police.

"Their investigation lasted 10 months, involved the interviewing of over 150 British personnel and 50 Iraqi nationals, and found no evidence to support these allegations.

"New allegations are part of an ongoing RMP investigation and judicial review and it would be inappropriate to comment further."

Figures released to Kent on Sunday last week showed that the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment suffered two deaths and 12 serious injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001.

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Awareness day for killer cancer

A NATIONAL charity is raising awareness about mesothelioma – a cancer caused by breathing in asbestos fibres.

The deadly disease is such a problem in Medway that Macmillan Cancer Relief provides funding for a specialist nurse to support patients and their carers.

On Wednesday, the British Lung Foundation's Action Mesothelioma Day aims to raise the profile of the killer condition, a cancer of the lining of the lung, which can also be found more rarely in the stomach.

Medway NHS Trust said the cancer, which is incurable and virtually always fatal, remains undetected for years and often shows up 40 to 50 years after exposure.

In the Medway towns, asbestos was used widely in all areas of industry. Men and women travelling to work long hours in factories would handle raw asbestos before heading home bringing particles of the insulator with them.

Cause for concern

Dr Alastair Steward, consultant chest physician at Medway Maritime Hospital, said: "Medway is a hot-spot for this disease. We have around 35 cases against 1,800 reported nationally.

"This statistic is significantly above the national average and is therefore a clear cause for concern in the area."

Doctors have warned the number of people being diagnosed with mesothelioma across Kent is set to double in the next 10 years.

Frances McKay, a mesothelioma nurse specialist, is based at Medway Maritime Hospital and runs a monthly support group for patients and loved ones.

Although the dangers of asbestos have been known for more than a century it was not until the 1980s the substance was banned – meaning thousands of workers had been exposed to its lethal properties.

For information about the mesothelioma team at Medway call 01634 830 000 ext 5212.

Tributes paid to a lifeboat legend

FRIENDS and fellow seamen have paid tribute to one of the country's "finest lifeboat coxswains", ***writes Jenna Pudelek.***

David Pascall, 59, died suddenly at his home in Dover last Sunday, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) said.

Captain Peter White, Dover RNLI's lifeboat operations manager, knew Mr Pascall for 30 years and described him as an exceptional seaman with an exuberant sense of humour.

He said: "Dave was one of the finest coxswains Dover, and indeed probably the RNLI, has known.

"He demonstrated outstanding leadership skills. As a friend he was a true gentleman, very supportive, helpful and loyal, with an easy manner with all.

"Dave was admired and respected by all who knew him. He was a great all-rounder. He gave talks about the RNLI to schools, scouts, pensioners and many other diverse groups."

The father-of-two was something of a local celebrity, taking part in Jim Davidson's Generation Game in 2001 on behalf of the RNLI.

He also received a 'Gotcha' award on the Noel Edmonds show.

Tony Hawkins, who knew Mr Pascall for 20 years, and served as coxswain before him, said: "As coxswain of Dover lifeboat it was an honour to have Dave as part of the crew.

"His skill and standard in seamanship, teamwork and dedication to the lifeboat was an example to all around him.

"He was a lifeboat man I wanted to have alongside me when going to sea on dark and rough nights.

"Dave was also a close friend. A larger-than-life man that lived his life to the full – he played and worked hard. He was a close friend that will be missed by the station and us all."

GREATLY MISSED: RNLI coxswain David Pascall died suddenly at his home in Dover

Before becoming a full-time coxswain for the RNLI, Mr Pascall ran an angling boat taking fishing parties into the Channel.

His sea-going career started when he was a boy on deep-sea vessels trading worldwide before he returned to Dover to work on the ferries for the port authority.

Mr Pascall leaves his wife Alice, two children Jim and Marie, and two grandchildren.

His funeral will take place on Friday at St Mary's Church in Dover at 1.30pm.

Infection expert backs clean hands campaign

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE RISK of an influenza pandemic and the narrowly avoided global catastrophe that was the Sars outbreak – a Kent healthcare worker has given an insight into the world of infection control.

Debbie Weston has just had her first book published, Infection Control: Theory and Practice for Healthcare Professionals.

The specialist nurse for infection prevention and control for East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust spoke to KOS Media as part of our campaign to promote hand hygiene in hospitals and healthcare centres across the county.

She said the book is aimed at anyone with an interest in infection control from physiotherapists, social workers, healthcare assistants and nursing students to the public.

Miss Weston, who lives in Westgate, revealed there are now only two copies left on Amazon so the online bookstore has to ship more in.

She said the fight against the bugs can be seen as a battle that nature is winning – the organisms are mutating and evolving into more virulent strains faster than scientists can develop new antibiotics to cure them.

"They are mutating faster than we can keep up with. That is why it is essential that everyone understands the basics.

"It is about keeping the environment clear, decontaminating hands and wearing the appropriate clothing. If the basics are in place then you can go a long way to breaking the train of transmission."

Basic hand hygiene is where KOS Media readers, viewers and listeners can help – simply washing hands with alcohol gel or liquid soap and water helps healthcare professionals in their battle against killer healthcare associated infections.

Miss Weston's fascination with these organisms is contagious.

"How they change is fascinating. Look at H5N1 or avian flu – it was pathogenic or harmful to birds and it has mutated to cause disease in humans. At the moment it cannot spread from human to human but there is the potential there for a pandemic.

"For there to be a pandemic you have got to have a new virus. It has got to demonstrate the ability to jump the species barrier and become transmissible.

INFECTION CONTROL: Debbie Weston

"All H5N1 has got to do is spread from person to person, so it is potentially the beginning of a pandemic. That is why it is being monitored so closely – it has already been killing people who have been in contact with poultry," she said.

Bird flu is like MRSA and Clostridium difficile (C diff), she said. It is vital to understand the organism so people are better equipped to understand the importance of stopping it.

In her book Miss Weston quotes the director general of the World Health Organisation Gro Harlem-Bruntland who said in July 2003: "We do not mark the end of Sars today but we observe a milestone: the global Sars outbreak has been contained. At this point we should all pause and give thanks to the scientists, public health and hospital workers who took risks in the face of a new and unknown disease.

"And we must remember those front line workers who died of Sars. Their daily dedication, courage and vigilance averted a global catastrophe."

Examples of past outbreaks, such as Sars, which killed around 800 people after its emergence from China in 2002, are used in the book as examples of what can go wrong.

"There are basic precautions based on the idea that you do not know who has got what. Universal precautions have been in place since the 80s and HIV.

"They centre on hand washing, gloves and aprons but it has gone on from there… It is about keeping the environment clean and decontaminating equipment – if people are doing these all of the time then they will reduce the risk of infection spreading from people to people," she said.

Headhunted

With organisms mutating and evolving, and diseases thought to have been defeated re-emerging, infection control teams certainly have their work cut out.

Another potential threat is the emergence of Community MRSA that is currently causing problems in America.

She said: "There is a recognised need for new antibiotics and controlling the ones we are currently giving."

Miss Weston trained and studied for her infection control degree at St Bart's Hospital in London in 1998.

After qualifying she was sent to Newham hospital in east London to help train nurses to set up an infection control team.

While at Newham she was headhunted for her current role in east Kent.

Her new role as an author came after she wrote an article for the Nursing Times about an outbreak of Norovirus – or winter vomiting disease – at the trust during December, 2004 and January, 2005.

"Later that year a commissioning editor called saying he had read it, liked it and shown it to publishers who were interested in me writing a book," she said.

It was published earlier this month.

The book is available online at Amazon and to order from good bookshops priced £29.99.

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Charity's anger at energy firm's 'fat cat' profits

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

ELDERLY people in Kent have been left outraged after British Gas announced a sharp rise in profits – only weeks after putting up bills.

The country's biggest power provider made operating profits of £571 million in 2007, it revealed on Wednesday. Last month, it announced price hikes of 15 per cent for customers.

Pensioners and charity workers at Age Concern in Kent said they were outraged vulnerable and elderly people were being put at risk while energy company "fat cats" reaped the rewards.

Sandra Springett, chief officer for Age Concern in Tunbridge Wells, said: "It is outrageous they are announcing record profits when there is so much fuel poverty and older people struggling to meet their bills.

"Many old people are miffed to hear their energy prices have gone up while these energy company fat cats seem to be making so much."

On Thursday, industry watchdog Ofgem launched a probe into the electricity and gas markets, saying it was responding to public fears that energy firms were colluding to keep prices high – something they deny.

British Gas' profits show an 83 per cent increase on its figure for last year, helping make record profits for its owner Centrica – which registered a £1.1 billion leap.

One of the county's senior politicians, Cllr Kevin Lynes, KCC's cabinet member for adult social services, said he shared the concerns raised by the charity and its service users.

He said: "Government should be doing something about regulating the market and allowing more competition. I do not think things will get any easier for people as they are. I think it [the situation] will get a lot worse."

Cllr Lynes believed the way forward was to accelerate exploration into alternative sources of energy.

"Effectively what we need is market regulation because a monopoly has been created by a small number of providers," he said. "If we could start to introduce [alternative] energy sources in a meaningful way… it would have a market regulating effect."

In the meantime, vulnerable people and pensioners are at risk of going either hungry or cold while trying to pay for escalating energy bills, said Mrs Springett.

"Elderly people do worry and will sacrifice staying warm, rather than run up high bills.

Wicked

They tend to keep one room warm and if they don't move around it's bad for their circulation.

"They are more likely to fall in the cold because your muscles don't work as well. Falling in a cold house at night they could get really ill with hypothermia," she said.

Ann Hunter, who is chief officer of Age Concern in Ashford, added: "It's wicked really.

"The concern is they could use the little money they have to pay for heating rather than food because when you are on a limited income you have to look at every penny you get."

Pensioner Kenneth Newton, who lives in Ashford, said the Government should step in to stop energy companies increasing prices further.

The 79-year-old said: "They keep putting it up by so much per cent, but my pension is not going up that much per cent."

Mr Newton said it was particularly difficult because he thought British Gas would offer the best energy deal but he added: "There's no real difference between them [energy providers] now".

Consumer watchdog Energywatch said a lack of competition had left Kent consumers paying over-inflated prices for their gas and electricity – creating an "oligopoly".

If Ofgem's investigation finds problems it may be referred to the Competition Commission.

Age Concern publishes a free leaflet 'Money in Your Pocket' on the benefits and help available to older people which are available from by calling 0800 00 99 66 or visiting www.ageconcern.org.uk.

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Car crash leaves man dead

A MAN has died following a late evening car crash.

The man, who has not been identified, was pronounced dead at the scene after the two-vehicle collision on the A256 at Megrims Hill in Sandhurst, near Cranbrook, at around 10pm.

Another man was left seriously injured and had to be cut from his car by firefighters after Thursday's collision.

The crash left one car on its roof and the other on fire.

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New Euro role

A SOUTH East Liberal Democrat MEP has been chosen as the European Parliament's senior delegate to Iraq.

Baroness Emma Nicholson has been chosen to chair the body's new ad hoc delegation for relations with Iraq.

She has been a campaigner for Iraqi refugees since before the 2003 invasion and was the first western parliamentarian to address the Iraqi Council of Representatives.

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EU TREATY 2008

Reporter Phil Reilly reports from the

Even your MEPs can't agree what it all means

ACCORDING to some of our more Eurosceptic MEPs, the Lisbon Treaty creates a European super state.

They claim it is constitutional in everything but name, that it gives the union the legal status of a state, that it creates new legal systems, foreign policy, status within the United Nations and a new head of state.

Added to the powers Europe already has over matters such as trade, currency and human rights, they say it will have all the hallmarks of a federal state.

It is the polar opposite of the much-lauded United States constitution, a short document listing rights to be protected.

Rather, this is a large, dense tome filled with complex rules and regulations.

Can it possibly be the case that the UK is finally signing away its sovereignty?

As with virtually all matters relating to Europe, our elected representatives disagree.

The Tory Eurosceptic-in-chief in Strasbourg is Daniel Hannan, who claims there are four vital elements in the treaty that gives the European Union "all the characteristics" of a federal state.

These are: a head of state (the new five-year role of President of the European Council), the ability to conduct relationships with other states (the new position of foreign minister), a system of criminal justice and status as a legal entity.

He added: "The EU has already acquired many attributes of a state: a parliament, a government, a civil service, a currency, a legal system, a supreme court, a flag, a national anthem."

Liberal Democrat Sharon Bowles and Peter Skinner, the only Labour MEP for the South East, strongly disagree with Mr Hannan and the Eurosceptics.

For Mrs Bowles, the treaty represents a more efficient, streamlined version of the way Europe is run.

She argues that in foreign policy the new treaty does not go as far as the agreements already entered into by Nato countries.

The MEP points to the Iraq war and says that street demonstrations across Europe show how much Europe's citizens have in common. Mrs Bowles argues that the role of the new president has much more in common with a committee chairman or house speaker than a head of state.

Military spending

Opt-outs give us flexibility when it comes to matters of justice, she claims, and aspects relating to trade make things better for businesses and consumers.

Mr Skinner was adamant Europe was not becoming a federal state and the treaty gives the UK a greater say in the European agenda.

He said: "[The EU] does not have the powers of a sovereign state. The treaty doesn't allow us to go to war, it doesn't allow the EU to tax its members and it can't change our penal system.

"It allows its own government to decide its own affairs on key issues. The only thing this allows is to do with what was agreed under Maastricht, but it extends the working mechanism to allow us to make decisions which are balanced and proportionate."

Dr Caroline Lucas, the Green Party MEP, said it was the military aspects of the treaty that troubled her most, but insisted: "It is possible to be pro-Europe and against this treaty."

She added: "I'm not against giving up some powers to the EU, but there are measures in the treaty that call on all member states to enhance military spending. Article 27 says that member states should undertake progressively to improve their military capabilities."

Many of the claims over what powers the treaty gives the European Union are directly contradictory.

The problem is the document itself is so complex and filled with legalistic language and footnotes that refer to previous treaties that it is virtually impossible for a layman to make head nor tail of it.

Tory expelled over Nazi jibe

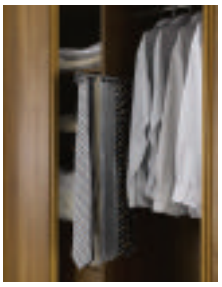
TORY MEP Daniel Hannan has been booted out of his parliamentary group after comparing the way dissent against the EU treaty was being dealt with by the Parliament with the Nazi's Enabling Act.

Mr Hannan was voted out of the EPP (European People's Party), a group made up of Conservative and Christian Democrat MEPs from across the Continent, on Tuesday evening.

In his blog, the South East representative claimed that, like the Nazis, the MEPs sought to use a technical majority to quell dissent.

Mr Hannan has since insisted that "whatever else MEPs are they are not Nazis", and praised anti-totalitarianism stances taken by many.

Conservative leader David Cameron has pledged to remove all his party's MEPs from the EPP after European elections in 2009.



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European Parliament after a crucial vote on the Lisbon Treaty

HEART OF EUROPE: The modernist cathedral of the European Parliament in Strasbourg (above), and protestors try to convince MEPs to give member states a referendum (right)

Referendum demanded by Eurosceptics

EUROPE'S elected representatives had a chance to put an end to the controversial EU Reform Treaty this week, but they did not.

Nearly 700 MEPs gathered in the European Parliament chamber on Wednesday to vote to approve the treaty by a ratio of around 85 to 15 per cent.

Had they rejected it, it would have been virtually impossible for the treaty to be ratified in its present form.

Each of the 27 countries in the European Union must now ratify the document individually by the end of the year before it can come into effect. Five, including France, have already done so.

The historic vote was largely ignored by the British press, but a KOS Media reporter was present in Strasbourg.

Of the 10 MEPs elected from the South East, the only two who spoke during the lengthy debate that preceded the vote were Ukip leader Nigel Farage and independent Ashley Mote, who both vehemently opposed it.

Mr Farage was speaking as leader of the IndDem (Independent Democrats) group, made up of like-minded MEPs from across the Continent.

He said: "What the European Parliament is engaged in is nothing less than a massive exercise in deceit. A pack of lies is being told because you do not want the peoples of Europe to have the referendums you promised them.

"We hope the voice of the peoples of Europe will be heard and not just the political class. You are increasingly being held in contempt."

While his sentiments were echoed by many speakers, more spoke of modernisation and unity, strengthening democracy, greater legal influence, social inclusion and environmental action.

What the debate lacked was detail, although specific objections were raised about the treaty's military elements, foreign policy and fisheries provisions.

Interestingly, more MEPs from Ireland spoke in the debate than any other country. Ireland is the only country that is bound by its own constitution to have a referendum on the treaty.

Some of those who opposed the treaty sat the debate out.

Tory South East MEPs Daniel Hannan, Nirj Deva and Richard Ashworth held a brief protest outside the parliament calling for a referendum.

Mr Hannan and Mr Deva then held a meeting in one of the building's conference rooms for around 50 constituents who were visiting the parliament.

Ukip held its own protest outside the parliament later in the morning. Supporters wore chicken suits and yellow T-shirts with the slogan: Are You Too Chicken for a Referendum?

The protest also made its way into the chamber, with Ukip MEPs unfurling a banner with 'REFERENDUM!' written on it as the result of the vote was read out.

This prompted parliament president, Hans-Gert Pottering, who was chairing the vote, to remark: "If your parents could see you they would be ashamed."

AN INQUIRY has been launched into abuses of expenses claims by MEPs. Liberal Democrat MEP Chris Davies called in the EU's independent investigation team, Olaf, after a confidential audit report seen by the body's budget control committee alleged abuses of payments to office staff. Each MEP is allowed up to £130,000 to pay for staff. It is claimed some MEPs, not named in the report, have abused this system. Franz Bruner, Olaf's director-general, has demanded to see the report and said he will launch an investigation into the allegations.

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A CASH machine has been stolen from a petrol station in west Kent. The machine was taken from the BP garage in Rye Road, Hawkhurst in the early hours of Thursday morning.

See pages 68 and 69 to catch up on the latest motorcycle news

HOLLYWOOD A-LIST: Scarlett Johansson and Natalie Portman are the sisters fighting for Henry VIII, played by Eric Bana (right)

Stars' praise for ancient settings

EXCLUSIVE

By **JAMIE McGINNES**

STARRING Scarlett Johansson, Natalie Portman and Eric Bana, The Other Boleyn Girl is billed as an "epic romance from one of Britain's hottest directors".

But the Hollywood A-listers have revealed that shooting in Kent for the take on Henry VIII's love life was at times far from romantic.

Johansson and Portman recalled this week how they contended with the elements while filming at Dover Castle in late 2006, which was used in the film as the Tower of London.

"Oh, Dover Castle," joked Johansson, 23. "We had to shoot the beheading there of course so everybody was outside. Come three o'clock, they'd be like, 'oh right, everybody inside' and we'd just have to pack up and people were being blown up the hoop skirt and, oh God, it was just unbelievable."

Portman, 26, said: "It was really bad weather. Our crew had hard hats because it was so dangerous to walk through this thing and they send the two of us in bareheaded, with our little wigs and stuff. It was funny"

And Johansson added: "Trying to go to the bathroom was an adventure."

As well as Dover Castle, the stars filmed at Penshurst Place and Knole House. But film-makers chose not to use the Boleyns' family home, Hever Castle, near Edenbridge – to the amazement of its managers.

Justin Chadwick, director of The Other Boleyn Girl, said Hever Castle was ruled out because it did not have enough atmosphere.

"We did visit lots of the real locations, such as Hever Castle where the Boleyn family lived for a time, but most of those places are now part of the tourist heritage industry and have been cleaned up for visitors.

Mistress

"They just don't have the atmosphere they would have had during Henry's reign."

John-Paul Kelly, the production designer, explained how locations were chosen.

"Justin wanted the look to be relevant, modern and alive. The Tudor period was incredibly energetic, a time of massive change, and Henry's court was the beginning of the modern Britain we live in now.

"We wanted to keep the backgrounds alive and vibrant and interesting. Our starting point was to balance period accuracy with creating a modern and exciting story."

In the film, which is based on the best-selling novel by Philippa Gregory, Portman plays Anne Boleyn, Johansson is her sister Mary and Eric Bana is Henry VIII.

The plot focuses on Henry's desire for a male heir, which leads to Sir Thomas Boleyn concocting a plan to bring his family back to prominence: by making Anne seduce the king and provide him with a son.

However, the scheme goes off course when Henry takes to the other Boleyn girl, Mary.

As an only child, Portman revealed she relied on her co-star for an insight into sibling relationships. "Scarlett is one of four children," said the Oscar nominee. "I felt like I had a co-conspirator – she's a wonderful actor and a very playful person.

"Peter Morgan [the screenwriter] agreed that in every scene there were 20 things going on between the girls – loving, fighting, feeling guilty, rivalry, but above all, closeness."

The two leading women in the film both looked at historical sources to research their characters, with Johansson saying she used Gregory's novel as her main guide.

"Not much is known about Mary's life. You can read different versions of how the affair with Henry came about and nothing is known about her personality.

"There were no articles written about her, no public interest in her. She was just another of the King's mistresses."

Australian actor Bana, 39, said he enjoyed playing a young Henry VIII. "What appealed to me was the complexity of the man," he said. "I felt even when he behaved badly, there was a logic to it I could understand.

"By the end of the film we can see where he is headed – he's becoming a spoiled brat, unpredictable and dangerous."

Fearing a Catholic invasion, Henry VIII ordered the strengthening of coastal defences, including Dover Castle, and visited to check on the progress of the work in 1539.

Penshurst Place, near Hildenborough, features in the film as the gardens of the grand dining hall of Whitehall Palace, the home of Henry's court.

Knole House, in Sevenoaks, was owned by Henry VIII, who used it as a hunting lodge. It is used in the film as the exterior of Whitehall Palace.

However, Duncan Leslie, managing director of Hever Castle, said he was "absolutely astonished" about Chadwick's comments on finding the right locations for the film.

"Hever Castle has been used as a historical setting for a number of period dramas over the years. The exterior of Hever Castle is as it was when the Boleyn family lived here and much of the interior still has original Tudor panelling, features and artefacts."

• ***The Other Boleyn Girl is released on March 7.***

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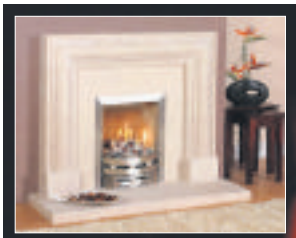

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'Important' asylum project loses funds

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A PROJECT that helps unaccompanied asylum-seeking children is facing a funding crisis after Kent County Council announced it was withdrawing vital support.

The Kent Refugee Action Network's Riverside Project in Canterbury is the only one of its kind in the county, and provides help and support for young people arriving from some of the world's most dangerous places such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Sudan.

Having escaped persecution and war in their home countries, the children are often emotionally and physically scarred and arrive ill-prepared for life in the UK.

Ken Berkin, the project co-ordinator, said the issue of asylum-seeking children divided opinions, "which is a pity, because not too many people know about the real issues these kids face and maybe if they did they would be more supportive about our work.

"This is a family for them it offers them support and also a bit of fun as well."

Up to 60 parentless young people aged between 16-18 are helped by the project, which provides everyday skills such as learning English, cooking, road safety, what to do in an emergency and personal hygiene.

Tony Fuller, director of the charity that oversees the project, said: "The Government acknowledges that [unaccompanied asylum-seeking children] puts strain on resources such as health and education and community cohesion.

"This project tackles all these problems – it is run very economically so it makes no sense not to fund it.

"I'm not angry [with KCC], I understand its position but I feel the amount is relatively small in terms of their budget.

"The importance is such that I believe they should re-examine their budget to meet the full amount or match fund with us, whereby we pay half."

The project costs about £60,000 a year and KCC's funding stops on March 31. The authority paid out £35,000 to keep the project running last year.

Mr Fuller said: "The project's value has been recognised for many years. KCC stepped in last year, as it has done previously, with the understanding there would be a good chance of having the funding renewed, but they are now saying they can't do that."

Disgraceful

The authority this week blamed unaccompanied minors for a 3.9 per cent rise in council tax, arguing that the Government was refusing to reimburse the authority with about £10 million it is owed for looking after the vulnerable young people.

Cllr Chris Wells, cabinet member for children, said: "KCC does understand and appreciate the work the project has done and the importance of preventative work.

"However, there's no provision for these types of life-skills project in either Home Office or Department for Children, Families and Schools grants.

"Every invoice we put into government is scrutinised with a microscope. Work done on their behalf that does not fit the criteria could damage the larger sum of money we are trying to reclaim for taxpayers and we've got no flexibility in our general budget."

Julian Brazier, Tory MP for Canterbury, has lobbied the Home Office in Parliament in an attempt to secure funding for the project.

"It is disgraceful," he said. "These kids are here as a result of Government policy, but it leaves local authorities to pick up the bill and local communities to suffer.

"They are from war-torn, unhappy countries and have had terrible experiences. Without this help they are liable to go into ethnic gangs where many of their counterparts have."

The charity said young people helped by the project went on to have an average attendance rate at colleges of 70 per cent.

There are around 800 asylum-seeking children in Kent. They are provided with £46 a week to live on. To help, call 01304 226 643.

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Williams attacks detention centre

THE ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury has slammed the treatment of immigrants held in UK detention centres.

Rowan Williams' comments come after he visited Oakington Immigration Reception Centre, dubbed "south Cambridgeshire's answer to Guantanamo Bay" by local councillors after concerns were raised about human rights abuses.

Dr Williams said: "I think the detention centre is full of problems. And I am talking about the system, not the people and I mean this in terms of things like families being taken in the middle of the night, children being ripped away from their parents and difficulties in visiting."

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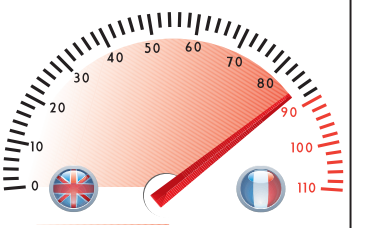
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Advice for shops hit by PO closure

KENT County Council has joined forces with a business advice service to support shops affected by post office closures.

Post Office Ltd is in the process of closing 56 branches in Kent and it is feared the loss of this revenue could spell the end for the shops housing them.

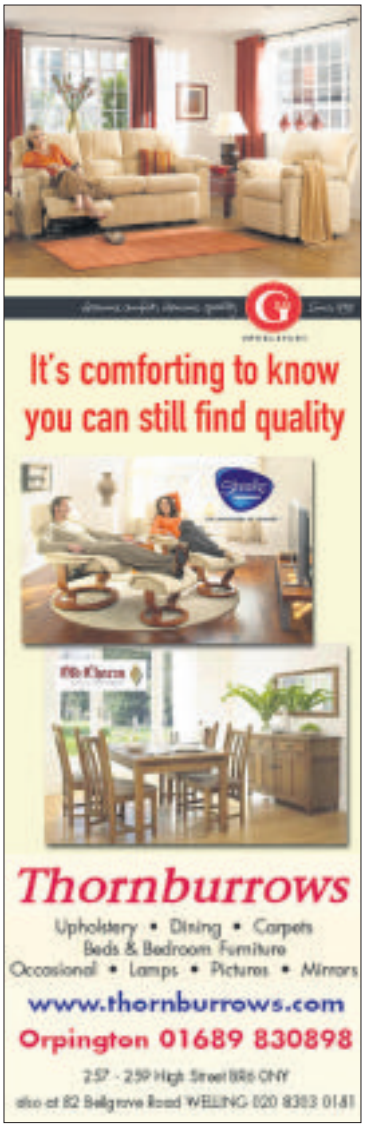
KCC and Business Link have put together a programme of support for these businesses, which includes advice from consultants and retail experts and help implementing changes.

They will also hold meetings with residents in some areas affected by the closures.

Tony Buddin, Business Link's head of marketing, said: "Many small shops, particularly in rural areas, are already in a precarious financial position.

"The loss of income and customers when people no longer visit them to use their post office services could put them out of business unless they take immediate action.

"However, there are thriving rural shops that have never needed the additional attraction of having a post office counter and we know from past experience that it is possible for threatened shops to turn their fortunes around and become vibrant community hubs simply by making use of specialist advice on issues such as merchandising, stock range, marketing and promotion."



Public charities should be left to provide their personal touch

'ALL across Kent, charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises are changing the lives of thousands of people.

Charities like Pepenbury, helping people with learning difficulties to achieve their full potential; the Kenward Trust giving people with drug and alcohol addiction the chance to finally overcome their dependence; organisations like Tomorrow's People, who have an inspirational track record in getting people back into work and helping them stay in jobs.

What is common to these and so many more voluntary organisations across our county is that their approach is personal.

For people who can't cope with the faceless bureaucracies of government, who aren't up to hanging on a call centre telephone line for hours trying to get some help, or who can't face the form-filling and paperwork the State puts between them and help, voluntary groups like these offer a lifeline.

They are helped by a real person who is interested in their own personal circumstances and doesn't regard them as a 'case' to be processed.

Moreover, the personal touch works. The track records of many of our voluntary organisations in solving the problems they confront are formidable.

No wonder the Government is increasingly turning to the voluntary sector to carry out services that used to be performed by the State.

I think it is a good thing the people responsible for providing our public services are recognising that voluntary action – often very local ones that know intimately particular communities – works.

I also think that voluntary organisations should have the right to deliver services run on behalf of the public where they can show that they can do the job more effectively than at present.

But there is a double danger that is ensnaring too many of our charities.

The first problem is that the Government, though first attracted to the way voluntary groups succeed by doing things differently, can't resist dictating to them how they want things to be done.

By **GREG CLARK**
MP for Tunbridge Wells and Shadow Charities Minister

All too often when the Government issues a contract, it specifies in minute detail not just what services it expects to be provided, but exactly how they should be provided, how many people should be employed, at what salaries – even down to what the charity's pension arrangements should be.

The Government ends up requiring charities to operate in a way that is little different from how the services were previously provided within the Government.

The second danger is that voluntary organisations have to make such an effort to dance to the Government's tune, and get bogged down in so much paperwork and compliance returns, that there is a real risk that the spirit of innovation and imagination that makes them so special is smothered.

These are real dangers – but it doesn't have to be this way.

As Shadow Charities Minister, I am determined to ensure that the next Conservative government will trust charities to do what they do best.

Yes, they need to be accountable for their use of public funds if they take them.

But accountability should focus on what has been achieved, rather than the process of achieving it.

Britain has one of the largest and most exciting voluntary sectors in the world.

In Kent, we benefit from a thriving number of charities which provide some of the most important and personal services.

Both locally and nationally, we must take care to embrace and nurture the sector, not turn it into an ineffective arm of central government.'

Green group takes on eco challenge for £1m prize

AN ENVIRONMENTAL campaign group in Kent has entered a national £1 million competition to find innovative carbon-cutting initiatives, ***writes Jenna Pudelek***.

The Headcorn Sustainability Group, which campaigns for sustainable lifestyles in Headcorn, near Ashford, is taking part in the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (Nesta) challenge to find ways of encouraging people across the country to tackle climate change.

Group members have been working in the community by asking people to look at ways they can become more sustainable and reduce their carbon footprint.

Member Penny Kemp said: "We're really excited to be entering the Big Green Challenge. We've worked as a group to come up with ideas that we think could have a real impact on emissions in our community in Headcorn, many of which we're keen to progress no matter what happens."

Nesta will select 100 groups from all the applicants to receive help to work up their ideas in more detail.

Climate change

A shortlist of 10 finalists will then be chosen who will receive £20,000 each, mentoring and support to help put their ideas into practice.

The organisation with the most imaginative and successful approach will win the £1 million grand prize which will be spend on projects that benefit the community.

Jonathan Kestenbaum, Nesta's chief executive, said: "It sounds like there are some potentially great ideas out there that could have a real impact on climate change and we're determined to bring them to the surface. Groups should see the competition as a way of showing the Government and scientists what anyone is capable of."

Competition hopefuls have until February 29 to apply, visit www.biggreenchallenge.org.uk for an application form.

Nesta is the largest endowment devoted exclusively to supporting talent, innovation and creativity in the UK.

Funding gap sees drug tests dropped

PLANS to randomly drug test pupils in Kent have been scrapped after no schools agreed to take part in a trial.

The Department for Education and Skills proposed to fund a Kent County Council-organised trial involving at least 35 schools after The Abbey School in Faversham pioneered the testing in 2005.

However, the department was prepared to fund only the cost of the research and not the drug tests themselves.

Those costs would have to have been met out of schools' budgets – and none were willing to sign up to the scheme.

At The Abbey School, 20 pupils were tested ervery week after being randomly selected by a computer.

Debate to tackle alcohol and crime

CALLING time on alcohol-related crime will be the topic of debate at a seminar in Medway next month.

Kent Police, Medway Council, the Safer Medway Partnership and the Home Office have joined forces to run the Taking Action Together event. Around 250 local landlords are expected to attend, as well as guest speakers including Shepherd Neame managing director Jonathan Neame.

Chief Inspector Des Keers, who is coordinating the event, said: "In the last year we have slashed violent crime by around a quarter."

The seminar is being held at The Corn Exchange in Rochester on March 4.

Gordon's vision for British citizenship

EXCLUSIVE **The Prime Minister Gordon Brown writes for KOS Media about his new immigration plan…**

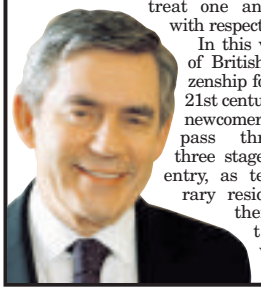
PEOPLE in Britain are about to see the biggest changes to the immigration system for a generation.

A new points-based system will ensure that people from outside the EU only come to Britain with the skills our economy needs. Alongside will be tougher measures to tackle illegal immigration and to protect our borders.

As part of these reforms, I want to set out a new vision for British citizenship – a vision that is founded on a unifying idea of rights matched with responsibilities.

And I want to explain what this means for managing migration – that for people coming to Britain, and wanting to become British, citizenship should depend upon actively entering into a contract through which, by virtue of responsibilities accepted, the right of citizenship is earned.

I stand for a British way of life where citizenship means that you learn our language and respect our traditions and you play by the rules; where we, the people, are protected from crime but in return we obey the law; where we, the people, expect and receive services, but in return pay our fair share in taxes and have the obligation to work and gain the skills for work where we can; where, as a country, Britain supports families and communities, but also expects families to take care of their own, and people to take care of their local environment and to treat one another with respect.



In this vision of British citizenship for the 21st century all newcomers will pass through three stages: on entry, as temporary residents; then, if they wish to stay, in a new category of probationary citizens; and finally as full British citizens or – for those who can't or don't want to become citizens but who meet the test – permanent residents.

Importantly before migrants come, the vast majority will need to speak English. And no one will be able to become even a probationary citizen without speaking English.

We will also consult on the proposal that those who have not made the commitment to be full citizens or permanent residents cannot expect the same rights – for example, to benefits or social housing – as those who have demonstrated their commitments and responsibilities and met the test for citizenship.

In addition, we propose that both temporary and probationary citizens be required to contribute to a new fund to help finance local public services.

The fund payments will be in addition to existing immigration fees and will be specifically aimed at making sure that temporary and probationary citizens are contributing to the services they are provided with – and that public services can manage short-term changes in their population.

Over many years, Britain's open, global economy has enriched us as a nation – not just socially and culturally but economically too. Indeed, attracting skilled migrants to work in Britain's businesses is essential to the continued success of our economy and we will do nothing to put that at risk.

But I believe that by being more explicit about what it means to be a British citizen we can not only manage immigration in a way that is good for Britain – for our citizens, our way of life, our society, and our economy.

But at the same time we can move forward as a more confident Britain – a Britain living up to shared values, a Britain equipped to lead economically, a Britain able to succeed as a 21st century society, enriched by change but anchored in enduring ideals.

• ***What do you think of the PM's plans? Email your views to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.***

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THE ZUTONS are coming to Kent as part of their first UK tour in two years. The group are currently working on their new album in LA. Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest will play host to the band on Sunday June 8. Jools Holland and his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra will also be playing Bedgebury on June 7. Tickets for the gigs cost £26 and can be bought by calling 01842 814 612, Ticketmaster or online at www.forestry.gov.uk/music or www.ticketmaster.co.uk.

WIN designer frames for your mum on Mother's Day with Specsavers

SPECSAVERS Opticians has teamed up with KOS Media to ensure well-deserving local mums will have a Mother's Day to remember.

Specsavers stores in Dover, Deal, Gravesend, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells are offering six lucky mums a brand new pair of designer frames, inclusive of single vision Pentax lenses, a full eye examination and a beautiful bouquet of flowers to finish off this special treat.

The six Specsavers stores have just launched the brand new and exclusive designer range from Jasper Conran, and also stock a large range of other designer specs including frames from Quiksilver, Roxy, FCUK, Red or Dead, and Osiris, Specsavers' own brand of designer frames.

To enter for this brilliant competition please state on a postcard which store you live closest too, then answer the question below and send your entry along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Specsavers Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

You can also text your answer to 81800, by sending SPEC88, followed by a space, the answer, a space and your name and address.

Messages cost 25p plus standard network charges. The service is provided by g8wave London N7.

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For our full terms and conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy call 01303 817073.

The closing date is March 7, 2008. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

Question: Can you name Specsavers' newest designer range?

A) Red or Dead

B) Osiris

C) Jasper Conran

To book an eye examination at your nearest store, or for a free style consultation, log onto www.specsavers.co.uk.

Specsavers terms and conditions:

Unless otherwise stated, entries must be received by no later than the published closing date for the competition.

The Editor's decision is final in all matters concerning the competition.

The prize, which includes six pairs of glasses up to the value of £125 each (inclusive of Pentax lenses) six eye examinations and six bouquets of flowers, are non-transferable and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or exchanged in the store in whole or in part for cash.

Prizes can only be claimed at the participating Specsavers Opticians stores, listed below:

- Deal
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- Sevenoaks
- Tunbridge Wells
- Tonbridge.

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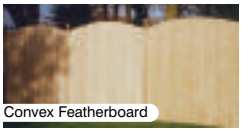
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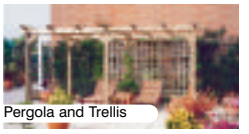
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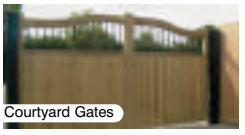
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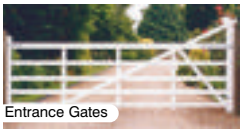
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'Relax...when it's from the HAYNES group.'

Mental health nurses suffer constant attacks

ONE in three nurses caring for older people on a mental health ward in Dartford have been assaulted at work, a national survey has found.

The report on physical assaults in mental health wards across the country found the level of violence and its impact on staff and patients was "constant and intolerable".

The Royal College of Psychiatrists carried out the survey on behalf of the Healthcare Commission.

Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, which is responsible for mental health services in the county, agreed with the watchdog and college and said it took every effort to reduce violent incidents.

Peter Hasler, the trust's director of nursing, said: "Our nurses do a great job in what everyone would agree can be a challenging role and they should be commended for their professionalism in dealing with all incidents."

The report found more nurses were assaulted on wards for older people, over 65s, with disorders such as dementia.

Nationally 65 per cent of staff said they had been assaulted, some with serious injuries such as fractures and dislocations, and in Kent the figure was 29 per cent.

But only one ward, Birch at Greenacres Hospital, was surveyed and the trust said it would be unfair to say whether the figure was representative of others across the county without carrying out a similar survey.

Government is caught between Northern Rock and a hard place

By **TONY PATEY**
Business Editor

NATIONALISATION. A word we thought had dropped out of our everyday vocabulary, and linked with the old version of Labour's Clause Four, is now back in vogue.

Not, of course, with the popular support of everyone, least of all the Conservative Party which despite trying to distance itself from the extremes of Thatcherism still flinches at public ownership of industry.

It was, after all, the economic strategy that was thought to be buried for ever by Margaret Thatcher in a massive wave of privatisation in the 80s.

The great socialist Sidney Webb wrote the draft clause in 1918 and it was adopted by the Labour Party: "To secure for the workers… the full fruits of their industry… that may be possible upon the basis of the common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange..."

It later fitted in with the theories of economist John Maynard Keynes who advocated government intervention in the economy if necessary, using fiscal (taxes, government borrowing and spending) and monetary (interest rates and money supply) measures to smooth out effects of economic swings.

In the 80s, Mrs Thatcher said the only policy was monetary policy and acted accordingly, with wide repercussions. Tony Blair, soon after becoming Labour leader, put forward in 1995 a new version of Clause Four which effectively cut out public ownership.

In 2000, the Labour government stood by while the Equitable Life Assurance Society – founded 1762 – almost collapsed and had to cut pension and retirement savings of policyholders to survive, causing a public outcry.

By implication, intervention in the free market was not on the Government's agenda.

Now, in a kind of u-turn, Labour is nationalising a public limited company which was operating in the free, private capitalist market. Northern Rock, by all accounts, will be in public hands for some years.

The cost is already the equivalent to about £3,500 for each taxpayer, and shareholders are extremely worried about what level of compensation they will get.

Although Northern Rock has a branch in Bromley, the vast majority of its branches are in the North East, where there are many Labour MPs.

A general election is just around the corner, and there are fears that 2,500 of the 6,000 staff will lose their jobs.

I don't think there will be a return to the so-called bad days of the 70s, but society has changed and there is perhaps a consensus which says the Government should be more hands-on – but it has got to work out how far.

It will now have to be consistent – any new crisis in the free market will be viewed in the light of Northern Rock. This could prove to be a rod for the Government's back and it may in future find itself between a rock and a hard place, or it has a chance to point a new direction for enlightened social market partial intervention.

Bank on troubled waters

• **NO LIFEBOAT:** Despite warnings by senior UK money men in 2007 there are no emergency measures available to cope with failing bank crisis.

• **STORM CLOUDS:** Northern Rock European bank most dependent on financial markets. During first half of 2007, it is responsible for one in five new mortgages.

• **SQUALLY SHOWERS:** Northern Rock's share price begins to fall in early 2007, and by summer is down by 30 per cent.

• **COASTGUARDS ALERTED:** In April and May 2007, Northern Rock is 'stress-tested' by Financial Services Authority and bank crew is asked to tighten up.

• **LIGHTNING STRIKES:** August, and global credit crunch hits. Northern Rock broadsided by big waves and begins to ship water.

• **CAPSIZING:** Northern Rock on brink of bankruptcy by September and forced to turn to the Government for emergency help.

• **RESCUE FLARE:** Lloyds TSB sounds out Government over potential rescue. Admiral, chancellor Alistair Darling, refuses. Bank's crew cheered – propped up with Bank of England loan.

• **JUMP OVERBOARD:** Northern Rock customers rush to withdraw money. Mr Darling throws multi-billion pound lifebelt and guarantees savers' money is safe.

• **RESCUE STATIONS:** Although Government allows the management to try and save the ship, by November it was clear the Treasury had to bring in outside help.

• **REPEL BOARDERS:** The Government rejects rescue attempts by Virgin Group and Northern Rock's own crew.

• **SALVAGE TUG:** February 18, the Government floats plans to nationalise Northern Rock.

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As the highway authority for Kent, we're often asked for local speed and traffic management schemes. We understand that inappropriate speed has a real impact on people's lives and it's something that we take very seriously.

The typical requests that we get are for us to change speed limits, introduce traffic-calming measures, put up electronic signs, install safety cameras, and introduce new warning signs and lines.

The challenge for us is to make sure that we use our limited resources as effectively as possible, which is why the first consideration for us is to make sure that any request is supported by the local community and comes through a known local group or a parish or town council.

When we investigate a potential problem on a stretch of road, we check the crash record for that road, and monitor traffic flows and speeds. If this information suggests that we need to investigate the matter further, we inspect the area and, when appropriate, consult local people to assess the full extent of the problem.

If our investigations find that there is a problem that could be solved by us introducing measures, we will set out our proposal and provide an estimate of the cost of the work. A bid for funding can then be made and, if successful, the scheme could then be implemented in the following financial year.

We have to remember that any measure we use must strike a balance between the needs of the local community and those of drivers. Excessive speed can affect the quality of people's lives but inappropriate measures can be ignored by drivers, making them ineffective.

We also work closely with other appropriate agencies to continually review the measures that we use to control speed, and make sure that they are effective. Education is an important part of our work too and we liaise with others such as the emergency services to invest in education and training aimed at the people most likely to be involved in crashes.

For more information about speed management, you can visit our website at **www.kent.gov.uk/highways** or contact us on **08458 247 800.**

Guide Dogs lead the way

At Kent Highway Services, we have a responsibility to make sure that everyone can navigate the counties' roads and pavements and we take that responsibility very seriously. That's why we invited Guide Dogs for the Blind to come and share their experience and viewpoints with us.

We have recently been leading the re-design of the public realm at Dover Priory train station and Guide Dogs for the Blind were an important contributor for the consultation process.

They shared their latest research with us and raised important issues about how to cater for the needs of people with disabilities and visual impairments.

This kind of consultation is particularly important with the increasing popularity of shared space schemes. Shared space aims to simplify the roads and pavements by removing kerbs and other clutter and encouraging vehicles and pedestrians to share the area together.

A key example of this is the award-winning shared space scheme for Ashford. Following input from Guide Dogs for the Blind, we made changes to the design to accommodate the needs of those who are visually impaired and make it suitable for everyone.

For more information about how we look afters Kent's roads and pavements visit **www.kent.gov.uk/highways** or call **08458 247 800.**

Making light work of our assets

Did you know that there are over 150,000 lighting units on Kent's roads, which includes street lights, lit signs and bollards?

It's a big job to look after them all but they're an important part of road safety. A key part of looking after them is knowing what we have, but our existing detailed inventory is patchy.

To solve this, we're in the process of carrying out a detailed survey and we've just completed a pilot project in Dartford. We visited every street lighting unit to collect all the relevant data belonging to it such as its construction, manufacturer, bulb type and wattage. We also collected the map co-ordiantes, allowing every unit to be identified by its position alone.

The main advantage of gathering this information is that we can accurately calculate the total power consumption across all our street lighting units, and identify potential savings by switching to high efficiency bulbs. It also means that faults can be more accurately logged and responded to more quickly.

It doesn't end there though; this project is part of a bigger management plan that will eventually allow us to manage all of our assets from one central database, meaning that we can better allocate our resources.

For more information about our work, you can visit our website at **www.kent.gov.uk/highways** or contact us on **08458 247 800.**

Advance Warning

The A229 Bluebell Hill will be closed uphill, towards Chatham, between 9pm on Friday 28 March until 5am on Monday 31 March.

Advance Notice from the Highways Agency

The A2 will be closed between Pepperhill junction and Cobham junction from 9pm on Saturday 23 February until 3pm Sunday 24 February.

Diversion routes will be signposted, please call 07831 196325 or the Highways Agency Information line: 08457 50 40 30 for further information.

See www.KentTV.com for up-to-date travel information

Travel Update

Below are roadworks and events that may cause some disruptions. Please remember that these are planned works and other emergency works may be required.

Kent Highway Services

Thanet

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
Current	28.2.08	Eaton Road, Margate	Temporary traffic lights – pavement works

Tunbridge Wells

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
25.2.08	27.2.08	Hartley Road, Cranbrook	Temporary traffic lights – carriageway works

Maidstone

25.2.08	29.2.08	Willington Street, Maidstone	Temporary traffic lights – new gas mains

Sevenoaks

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
25.2.08	7.3.08	Main Road, Edenbridge	Temporary traffic lights – carriageway works

Tonbridge & Malling

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
25.2.08	24.3.08	Nizells lane, Hilldenborough	Temporary traffic lights – carriageway works

Canterbury

Start	Finish	Road	Reason
27.2.08	29.2.08	Chestfield Road, Chestfield	Temporary traffic lights – new water mains

For details of other roadworks in Kent please visit www.kent.gov.uk/travel

For more information, please call 08458 247 800 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Woof justice from K999

From pup to police dog – Victor's now on the beat

By PHIL REILLY
phil.reilly@kosmedia.co.uk

IT IS just over a year and a half since German Shepherd Victor first featured in this newspaper, but that is a long time in dog years.

Victor was just a tiny, playful 49-day-old puppy then, one of a litter of eight that was to be trained to become a police dog.

But boy, has he grown.

He is now fully grown and fully trained, the cute little puppy transformed into a lean, mean criminal-catching machine.

Having said that, to see him with his doting handler, WPC Sam Appleby, you would not assume he had an aggressive bone in him.

Victor and WPC Appleby spend virtually their whole lives together now.

Not only do they work together all day every day, he also lives at home with her.

The bubbly dog handler has been with Victor since he was 11 months old last June.

GROWING UP: Victor as a pup and with his handler WPC Sam Appleby and Ann Barnes

They then completed 13 weeks training together, during which time Victor learned the arts of tracking, searching and retrieving and crowd control.

Bond

In the few months the pair have been on active duty together, he has already had a chance to test his mettle – and passed with flying colours.

"There was a car that failed to stop at a red light one night near Deal about four months ago," WPC Appleby explained.

"The police found it later abandoned. When we got there Victor found the start of a track, footprints, even though it was pouring with rain. He followed the tracks for about 500 metres and found a man lying under some bushes."

That has been the highlight of Victor's fledgling career so far, but he will remain on active duty for anything between five and seven years before he retires.

WPC Appleby has formed an understandably close bond with her dog and is very proud of his progress.

She said: "I've seen him as a little pup and now as a working dog. It is a great job, especially when you see them getting results from things that you've trained them to do."

One of Victor's biggest fans is Ann Barnes, chairwoman of the Kent Police Authority and a regular visitor to the force's training facilities at Stockbury Valley Boarding Kennels near Sittingbourne.

Indeed, Mrs Barnes is enamoured of all the force's dogs, and even gave a home to one German Shepherd, Alice, that failed to make the grade.

Mrs Barnes said: "To see the progress Victor and the others have made is remarkable. They were such cute little puppies, but they have grown into very good police dogs and it has been a pleasure to watch."

The majority of dogs trained by Kent Police are German Shepherds because of their size and agility, although they do have several Labradors and Springer Spaniels, whose keen noses make them ideal search dogs.

The next generation of police dogs have already begun their progress. Eight out of 10 German Shepherd puppies have already completed a series of basic tests and are now waiting to be passed on to families.

They will live with their families for the next 10-12 months, returning to the kennels for bi-weekly training sessions.

They are then paired with a handler and put through a 13-week training course before starting work as fully fledged police dogs.

Kent Police is currently looking for volunteers to look after their fledgling recruits.

No experience is required, but you will need some understanding of their behaviour. You will also need to pass a brief assessment to be carried out in April.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Kent Police on 07980 770 597.

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DISCOUNT chain Poundland has launched a range of pink tools as an alternative gift for Mothers' Day.

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And youngsters will only have to spend £1 of their pocket money for each tool.

Jacqueline puts success down to 'lucky' Tracy

ON CAMERA: Author Jacqueline Wilson

By **JULIE MADDOCKS**
julie.maddocks@kosmedia.co.uk

SELLING 20 million books in the UK, being the most borrowed author from the English library, or to be made a Dame in the New Year Honours list.

Any of these would be a huge achievement, but are just a few of the accomplishments of best-selling writer Jacqueline Wilson – and none of them she takes for granted.

To add to her success, the former Children's Laureate was in Bluewater this week to see her creation – Tracy Beaker transformed into a range of Marks & Spencer merchandise.

Serialised

Hundreds of youngsters waited patiently to see their favourite writer, but even after hours of book signing, Jacqueline still made time to talk to each, delivering a personal message to every one of them.

But did she ever think her work would lead to this?

"Never," she said. "It's all down to Tracy Beaker. That was always a lucky character for me. I wrote my first book featuring her 17 years ago, but never envisaged the effect she would have."

Jacqueline's writing ambition began at the age of nine, when she'd pretend to interview herself on the way to school.

She said: "I would always make sure that my stories had a happy ending, although my latest book, My Sister Jodi, should come with a health warning, it's so sad. Perhaps it should have a packet of tissues strapped to it."

After so much success you would think that nothing would surprise Jacqueline any more. But this couldn't be further from the truth, even with the Tracy Beaker stories serialised by the BBC, Ms Wilson is still clearly delighted when her novels are adapted into other forms of entertainment.

As proved in her reaction to her book Secrets being taken to the stage.

"It's a great honour to think that it's going to be enjoyed in the theatre, I find it so exciting," she said.

You can see for yourself, as the play tours Kent, coming to The Orchard Theatre – Dartford, Assembly Halls – Tunbridge Wells and The Marlowe – Canterbury.

• ***Watch Julie Maddocks interview Jacqueline Wilson at our free broadband TV service, www.yourkenttv.co.uk.***

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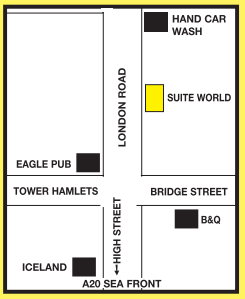

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It's winning smiles all round as adult disabled league kicks off

ON a crisp Saturday morning, proud parents stood and cheered as their offset played football – a sight they thought they would never see, ***writes Jenna Pudelek***.

The mothers and fathers present thought they would never get the chance to see their disabled sons take part in a competitive game or have the opportunity to win trophies.

As the Maidstone Raiders took on the St Margaret's All Stars at the Astor of Hever Sports College in Maidstone it marked the first match in Kent's disabled adult football league.

Jakki Campbell, who works as an administrator for the Raiders, said: "I started doing this because there is nothing for adult disabled people – I should know I've been sitting in a wheelchair for 10 years.

"The league is so important – it is one of the most positive things I've seen in a long time."

The 32-year-old added: "You've got no idea how excited they've been about this."

A DAY TO REMEMBER: Maidstone Raiders (above) who took on the St Margaret's All Stars

As excitement turned to pre-match jitters, Raiders captain Andrew Oliver talked team tactics to KOS Media.

Mr Oliver, 34, who has learning disabilities, said: "I'm really nervous, it's my first match. It is the first time we've all played together. But we're really going to go for it. I'll be telling them attack all the time."

Children with physical or learning disabilities can play football for seven teams across the county until they are 16, but the Maidstone and Dover teams are among the first to have teams devoted to older players.

Mr Oliver said: "I'm happy to have the chance to play as before it was only the youngsters and I was too rough. I was too old to play because I had too much strength."

The league is the brainchild of former semi-professional player John Harvey, head of disability football at Maidstone United, who hopes by September that adult teams will have developed across the county.

Donna Spain, who lives in Deal, has a disabled son that plays for St Margaret's under-16s. She acts as spokeswoman for the team.

She said: "It's brilliant for them. They are so excited. This is the first season the over-16s have been able to play against another team.

"It is good for the parents as well. It gives us a bit of support because we are all in the same boat."

However, both teams are desperate for players to join their clubs.

Number nine Robert Chick, or 'Chicky', is one of the best scorers for the Raiders, according to his proud parents.

The team is four-nil down to the All Stars, but the atmosphere could not be less dejected and as the players rush over to the sidelines at halftime Chicky promises to score 10 goals in the next half.

His father, Bernard, said: "I don't think winning is important at all to them – it is being treated like any other young adult."

His wife, Drieda, agreed: "They really like these matches [for] the sense of achievement. They are good losers, they really don't seem to mind which is nice to see."

The couple explain how their 17-year-old son, who has Down's syndrome, is developing a bit of a penchant for the lifestyle of a Premiership player – as he enjoys posing in his sunglasses.

Mr Chick joked: "All he needs now is a Wag."

Defender Chris Carr's dad used to play for Luton Town and Lincoln, his mother Gill said.

She said: "Sadly Chris's dad died, so it's just lovely to have this."

Her 19-year-old son, who has Down's syndrome, was getting too old to play in the youth team.

Mrs Carr added: "He missed out in playing competitive games so it's brilliant to have this."

The first match ended with St Margaret's All Stars winning 5-0.

• If you or anyone you know is interested in playing in the league Mr Harvey at the Maidstone Raiders can be contacted on 01622 675 755 and for the All Stars call Alison Turner on 07779 275 983.

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CARING, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 TXT

LIVELY, attractive female, 32, 5'5", looking to meet that someone special to share life, laughter and love. Box 429124 TXT

32YR old kind, warm female, 5'6", cuddly build, love walking my dog, cosy nights in, evenings out, wltm tall, honest, trustworthy male for friendship. Box 430993 TXT

HI I'm 33, from Canterbury, non-worker as have heart problems, looking to meet someone who's kind, honest, loving and affectionate for romantic times. Box 436785 TXT

HONEST, single, outgoing female, 31, 5'11", loves to go out and stay in with good company, dvds etc, WLTM similar male, for friendship and more. Box 927816 TXT

SINGLE mum of 2, 32, would like to meet someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in/out and cinema. Box 406670 TXT

SINGLE 36yr old female, like most things in life, very loving and caring, 5'5", cuddly build, good personality, seeking a gentle, considerate man. Box 431286 TXT

LOVING female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 TXT

LARGE, bubbly lady, 37, 5'8", like country walks, seaside, bird watching, all music, looking for that special male for good times. Box 435619 TXT

HI I'm 37, 5ft8, mousey long hair, grey eyes, n/s, large bubbly lady, love pubs, country walks, bird-watching, seeking kind, tactile, n/s gent, possibly romantic!. Box 435674 TXT

CUTE, single mum of 4, 37, Kent based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897983 TXT

HONEST, sincere female, 38, gsoh, live with my children, love a laugh, looking for friendship and hugs with a nice gent. Box 896649 TXT

38YR old bubbly, affectionate woman with a lively personality, 5'5", like reading, walks pubs, looking for a friendly chap for good times and more. Box 436584 TXT

PROFESSIONAL Asian lady, 30s very westernised, fun-loving and GSOH, WLTM solvent, professional male with no ties for relationship. Box 435922 TXT

LOVELY single Mum, 38, 5ft4, blonde, slim build, loves socialising, good fun and chatty, WLTM similar male for fun and laughter, maybe leading to LTR. Box 372889 TXT

SAMMY, 40 (just!), single Mum of 4, independent, own house, hard-working, seeking loyal, happy-go-lucky (like me!), easygoing male for fun and maybe relationship. Box 435686

BUBBLY 40yr old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, wltm a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 435102 TXT

FUN-LOVING, vivacious woman, early 40s, enjoys dining out, walking, cinema, looking for a confident man with GSOH, n/s for friendship & maybe more. Box 896889 TXT

LOVING, caring single mum, 42, loves swimming, walking, nights in/out, Would love to meet somebody special to share life's ups and downs with. Paul, call again!. Box 897101 TXT

42, 5ft7, slim build, down-to-earth, normal! love bowling, cinema, clubs, seeking a male 40-55 for friendship and more!. Box 436163 TXT

42YR old outgoing female, 5'4", brown hair, green eyes, medium build, enjoy cinema, meals out, seeking a friendly male for nice times. Box 435451 TXT

HARD-WORKING female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156 TXT

DEAL-BASED lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5ft10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430384 TXT

I'M Jackie, 43, 5ft1, blue eyes brown hair, single mum, love going out, reading, cycling, music, enjoy male company and seeking 27-45yr old, for companionship. Box 436076 TXT

FUN-LOVING, affectionate brunette, 43, size 12, N/S, separated amicably with 2 lovely kids, enjoys keeping fit, seeks good-looking, slim, fit, romantic male. Box 814378 TXT

PLEASANT female, 43, medium/large build, blue/green eyes, grown up children, beach walks, relaxing, reading, wining, seeks sincere male with GSOH, for LTR. Box 429071 TXT

MELVIS, 44, looking for an understanding, sensitive man, enjoys music and being adventurous. Box 431913 TXT

PETITE, sincere woman, 44, wavy blonde hair, blue eyes, size 10, loves beach walks, animals, DIY, swimming, travelling, wltm N/S man to share things with. Box 429682 TXT

45 year old female, has 2 dogs, works full time, likes horse riding, gardening, walks, socialising, enjoys eating out, cinema, good conversation. Box 435464 TXT

44YR old female, blonde hair, 5ft5, slim, easygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar out there to enjoy life with!. Box 436810 TXT

44YR old female, 5'5", brown hair, slim/medium build, enjoys pubs, clubs, if you are out there, give me a ring! Maidstone. Box 413448 TXT

FEMALE, 46, seeks honest, warm, sincere, intelligent, and good-looking male with no hang-ups about kids for friendship and hoping for more. Box 156956 TXT

FRIENDLY, bubbly, fun-loving woman, 45, 5'4", GSOH, enjoys socialising, pubs, music, eating in/out, own home/car, smoker, looking for honest man 44-55, who enjoys life. Box 823441 TXT

YOUNG-LOOKING, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving & outgoing, N/S, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out & staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50. Aylesford. Box 428833 TXT

HI, I'm Sue, 48, 5'2", dark hair/eyes, divorced, hard-working, wltm compatible male, stocky build, for good times, possibly LTR. Box 432992 TXT

GENUINE, friendly female, 49, likes walks, gardening, nights in/out, seeking genuine, friendly male, 45-55. Dover. Box 435441 TXT

YOUNG-AT-HEART female, 48, medium build, 5ft2, dark hair, blue eyes, GSOH, very active, likes clubs and dining out, seeks someone with similar interests. Box 435098 TXT

HELLO! 49yr old female, divorced, 5ft, blonde hair green eyes, curvy, love animals, nature, country walks, seeking a male to start a long term relationship!. Box 436848 TXT

HELLO, 49yr old female, 5ft3, blonde, nervous! outgoing, love music, socialising, simple things in life, seeking a male to look after and settle down with. Box 436633 TXT

LOVING and loyal 49yr old female, GSOH, enjoys walking, countryside, cinema, theatre, pubs, restaurants, music, travel, seeks sincere and loving male between 48-56 for friendship. Box 909974 TXT

LOYAL, bubbly and affectionate, attractive lady, 51, dark hair, enjoy clubs, nights in, love animals, seeking a like-minded gent for happiness. Box 433585 TXT

SPORTY female, 50, Hastings-based, 5'8", blonde/blue, enjoys golf, walking, socialising, eating in/out, WLTM fun-loving, kind, sporty male, 48-60, 5'10"+, to share life. Box 165367 TXT

NEW to the area, I'm female, 50, with blonde hair/blue eyes, 5ft7, seeking nice, outgoing guy who likes meals out, travel, nights in, cinema. Box 437028 TXT

LIVELY, understanding female, 51, large build, wltm genuine, loving male, 46-58, for lasting, loving relationship. Faversham. Box 399271 TXT

LONELY, honest lady, 52, enjoy walks, cycling, travel, wltm sociable gent to share interests and possibly leading to LTR. Box 399420 TXT

53YR old bubbly lady, 6ft, like meals out, staying in, looking for a caring man to share life's ups and downs. Box 435768 TXT

HELLO, I'm 53, 5ft11, brown eyes, grey hair, a widow, been hurt badly recently so looking for my soulmate, enjoys walks, socialising and more. Box 436991 TXT

SUE, 55yrs young, 5ft, cuddly, honest, easygoing, GSOH, enjoys reading, films and a glass of wine! seeking like-minded male, Deal area, for friendship, perhaps more!. Box 896568 TXT

DIVORCED lady, youthful 56, N/S, 5'3", green eyes, brown hair, medium build, GSOH, likes eating out, cinema, driving, music, holidays, seeking friendship, see what develops. Box 897592 TXT

DIVORCED female, 50's, 5ft4, own home, great job and friends, likes to keep fit, hobbies include shopping, cooking, dining out, theatre/cinema, holidays, seeking friendship and more. Box 434901 TXT

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY female, 57, likes nice walks, pubs/clubs, quite nights in, loves children and animals, seeking an honest, caring man. Box 435308 TXT

YOUNG, 57yr old modern female widow, slim build, enjoys nights in/out, socialising, seeking honest, reliable man for friendship, love, affection and TLC. Box 920739 TXT

HI I'm Jackie, 58, 5ft6, blue eyes, funloving, down-to-earth and considerate, love horses, seeking male 58-65 who loves music and animals to be my soulmate!. Box 436328 TXT

HAPPY, contented solvent lady, 59, N/S, living in the country near Hythe, seeks gentleman of similar disposition and means. Box 897822 TXT

CLASSY, intelligent, divorced, attractive lady, 59, slim & active; enjoys travel, walking holidays, sport, gardening. WLTM sincere, intelligent gentleman initially for friendship, maybe more. Box 910138 TXT

WIDOWED woman, 61, no ties, positive outlook, kind nature with GSOH, like the usual things and would like to find a male counterpart. Box 431210

SOLVENT, cuddly female, 59, 5'1", love the countryside, foreign travel, seeks happy, solvent male, 50s-62, for affection and TLC. Box 394179 TXT

BRUNETTE lady, 61, looking for a LTR, friendship first, any age considered. Interests: dancing walking, socialising, cuddling! Margate. Box 432246 TXT

DIVORCED lady, 61, N/S, medium build, loves movies, classic music, comedy, restaurants, cooking, gardening, reading, driving, seeks tactile man, for something special. Box 424898 TXT

YOUNG 61 year old, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, very happy-go-lucky, likes dancing, walks, eating in/out. I'm very adaptable, looking for a LTR. Margate. Box 434424 TXT

BLONDE lady, 60's, 5ft7, slim, n/s, likes holidays, dancing, 60's music and country & western. WLTM tall, sincere gent. Box 436618 TXT

65YR old young-at-heart widow, 5ft5, slim, GSOH, enjoys golf, theatre, music, reading and more, WLTM kind, honest male for friendship, possibly more. Box 436430 TXT

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BUBBLY female, 71, 5ft9, blonde, medium build, own home/car, GSOH, love most things in life, New Romney. TERRY FROM KENT PLEASE PHONE AND LEAVE CONTACT!. Box 434390 TXT

Women for women

28YR old friendly female, brown hair/eyes, enjoy keeping fit, sociable events, clubs, dancing, music, wltm like-minded, slim, attractive woman. Box 432921 TXT

CUDDLY female, 46, blue eyes, very feminine, loves music, animals, reading, writing, stars, very genuine, meals in/out, seeking boyish female, who's loving and caring. Box 433152 TXT

CAPRICORN female, 48, 5ft7, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, caring, animal lover, into DIY, sports, reading, wltm someone in Maidstone area. Box 434547 TXT

SOCIABLE Sagittarian, 52 year old brunette, likes music, dancing, eating out, seeking like-minded female, for fun and more. Box 435191 TXT

MEN for WOMEN

HONEST male, 25, 5ft7, blue eyes, brown hair, builder, likes football, swimming, seeks cute looking female for friendship and more. Box 436935

YOUNG, adventurous, outgoing man, 32, enjoys outdoors, keeping fit and swimming, country walks, pubs, river walks and nights in, seeking a like-minded, cuddly female. Box 897215 TXT

FUN-LOVING male, 33, 6ft, blue eyes/fair hair, stocky-muscular build, seeks similar slender female to enjoy life with. Maidstone. Box 194378 TXT

RICHARD, 33, dark hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks bright, outgoing woman who likes doing anything, really! Let's see what happens!. Box 429217 TXT

34YR old young-looking, shy at first male, 5'9", medium build, enjoy life to the full, seeking that special someone to share good moments with. Box 435061 TXT

HI, I'm 5ft10, 35yrs old, black hair/brown eyes, works in London, own home/car and a motorbike! I'm a family guy and also enjoy going out/socialising. Box 436869 TXT

AFFECTIONATE, caring male, 34, 6'1", tall, dark eyes, likes going out, pubs, clubs, seeks fun female for life, love and laughter. Box 378804 TXT

ATTRACTIVE male, 37, medium build, enjoys countryside, travelling, children, animals & pubs, wltm female 25-35 slim/medium build with similar interests for fun, friendship/serious relationship. Box 435731 TXT

36YR old honest, kind, caring, single male, blond hair, 6ft, like walks, cinema, nights in/out, enjoy family life, wltm like-minded, genuine female. Box 430440 TXT

YET another single man, 37, looking for the right kind of female to be my counterpart! Give us a call and we'll see. Box 896232 TXT

DOWN to earth and loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship, enjoys meals out, good company & conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917 TXT

JASON, 38, 5ft8, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cycling, seeks genuine female for friendship and good times. Box 433326 TXT

HI I'm 38, 5ft8, medium-stocky build, 2 children, love bike-rides, swimming, walks, pubs, seeking female partner for fun, friendship, and to start new life with!. Box 436581 TXT

39YR old male with blue eyes, 5ft7, loves eating out, ten-pin bowling, cinema, clubbing, seeking a female for friendship, good times and long term relationship. Box 436385 TXT

FUN-LOVING, faithful, caring man (39), looking for the right woman, single parents welcome, enjoys family life, and have lots of love and TLC to give. Box 435642 TXT

OUTGOING, easygoing male, 39, slim build, short brown hair, like eating out, especially Italian food, enjoy ten-pin bowling, looking for a like-minded, compatible female, GSOH. Box 436680 TXT

INTERESTS: music, cinema, cosy nights in, looking for a woman to have fun with. I'm divorced, 39yrs old, and hoping for companionship. Box 436878

NICE looking male, 37, slim build, likes sports, socialising, most things, seeks dark haired female, 30's with a great personality. Box 807534 TXT

SINGLE man, 39, 5'8", medium build, grey/blue eyes, not much hair but cropped. Friendly and approachable a good listener, very loyal and an outgoing personality. Box 897764 TXT

ATTRACTIVE mixed race male, 40, 5'10", likes chatting, nights in. Looking for female under 41, who lives in swale or medway boroughs, for relationship. Box 896161 TXT

HI, I'm a down-2-earth male, 40, 57", medium build, green eyes, loves outdoors, sports, beach walks etc, wltm an out-going female for good times. Box 899004 TXT

ATTRACTIVE mixed race male, 40, 5'10", likes chatting, nights in. Looking for female under 41, who lives in Swale/Medway boroughs, for relationship. Box 896879 TXT

ROMANTIC Pisces, 39, enjoys finer things in life, seeking genuine female, to enhance my world and enjoy life with. Box 408404 TXT

HI, I'm Carl, 40, GSOH, 6ft, light green eyes, brown hair, looking for a fun, bubbly woman to share laugh, days out and much more. Box 436696 TXT

I'M 40, 6ft2, brown hair, blue eyes, enjoy golf, sports and travel, seeking fun, outgoing female for friendship and more. Maidstone. Box 436409 TXT

ATTRACTIVE, independent, professional male, 40, own home/car, loves wining/dining, the sun, holidays, cinema, pubs occasionally, seeking a fun, sincere, loving female, to enjoy each others company. Box 434103 TXT

TONBRIDGE male, 41, 5ft5, brown hair, green eyes, enjoys sports, driving, relaxing nights in, seeking a loyal woman, 36-42, who's caring and fun-loving. Box 435239 TXT

41YR old genuine and understanding male, 5'8", short cropped hair, enjoy sports, life to the full, looking for lady, medium/large, for friendship, possibly more. Box 433635 TXT

40YR old, male, good health, good job/home/car, good friends and family, work hard, like to play when I can - down-to-earth. Box 913490 TXT

41 year old male in Gillingham with no ties, looking for a sincere female to spend quality time with possible LTR. Box 904188 TXT

BLOND, blue-eyed male, 42, slim, likes running, cycling, cinema, travel, music, martial arts, eating in/out, seeking an active lady with similar interests. Box 432632 TXT

ATTENTION ladies! Nice looking, cheeky lads, loving guy, 42, seeks an attractive, fun loving female for loads of fun & laughs. East Kent. Box 824810 TXT

WARM, tactile male, 42, 6ft, likes socialising, pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, seeks like minded female, for friendship, leading to more. Box 388967 TXT

SLIM male, 42, 5ft11, genuine, reliable, N/S, likes all the usual things in life, WLTM genuine, down-to-earth lady, for friendship, dates, relationship. Gillingham area. Box 425419 TXT

SINCERE, stocky southern Irish guy, skinhead, no ties, 43, enjoys motor racing, pubs, cinema, the good life, discos, seeks lady to share life with. Kent. Box 417532 TXT

HONEST, sincere, reliable male, 44, 5ft7, medium build, likes sports, music, beach walks, country pubs. Box 433914 TXT

I'M 45, 5ft10, medium build, blue eyes, shaved head, like having fun, a laugh, love music and film, seeking a female 25-48 for romance. Box 435737 TXT

ALLAN, 46, 6ft, brown hair, GSOH, likes going out, football, keeping fit, seeks sporty female for friendship and more. Box 434948 TXT

HI am 46 years old looking for that right person, likes nights out, clubs, pubs, cinema, looking for that lady to light up my life. Box 896851 TXT

BLOND, blue-eyed male, 46, 5ft8, enjoys socialising, cinema, live alone in Ashford, looking for a great lady for fun, friendship and more. Box 421664 TXT

EASY-GOING guy, genuine, 46, 5ft7, slim, hard-working, own home, adventurous, enjoys nights in/out, drives, weekends away, socialising, walks, seeking someone to enjoy life with. Box 435393 TXT

YOUTHFUL dad, 45, 5'10", brown hair, med build, divorcee, likes pubs, cinema, restaurants, theme parks, wltm female, 38-45, slim, for possible LTR. Cranbrook. Box 737529 TXT

PROFESSIONAL male, 48, own home and car, likes sports and golf, going out for pub and meals, 2 children, WLTM female for fun-loving nice times. Box 436213 TXT

I'M John, 48, GSOH, love the cinema, music, reading, sports, the pub, TV, eating in/out, seeking a similar, committed lady 40-50 for steady, stable LTR. Box 436829 TXT

TONY, 48, 5ft7, medium build, likes wining/dining, music, walks, movies and nights in, looking for someone romantic to share my life with hopefully. Box 430219 TXT

GOOD-LOOKING male, 47, VGSOH, medium build, varied interests, looking for friendship and love with honest, easy-going female with GSOH, kids not a problem. Box 898446 TXT

PERFECT gent, young-looking, 48, 6ft, reliable, considerate, love skiing, holidays, walks, conversation, gardens, DIY, WLTM lady, 37-47, slim/medium, to be lifelong companion and lover. Box 896635 TXT

SINGLE male, 50 years of age though young at heart! Seeks professional, slim lady. Get in touch!. Box 895981 TXT

YOUNG looking, romantic male, 58, 5'7", slim/medium build, like the countryside, meals out, theatre, cinema, looking for a affectionate, tactile lady to share good moments. Box 417889 TXT

YOUNG 51, good-looking, young-looking, N/S, GSOH, fit, slim, romantic, solvent, caring, likes most things in life; food/wine etc, seeking genuine lady to share life with. Box 434593 TXT

FUN-LOVING male, 52, likes going out, playing golf, motor cycles, socialising, visiting new places, WLTM an interesting female. Box 427713 TXT

YOUNG 53, 5ft9, likes pubs, restaurants, wine bars, various music, walks, seeking friendship, maybe leading to more. Sittingbourne. Box 429265 TXT

53YR old happy go lucky, genuine man, enjoy socialising, meals out, cooking, pubs etc, looking for lady to share nice times together. Box 436589

ALAN, 53yr old widower, medium build, own home/car, would like to meet sincere, genuine woman, interested in gardening, motorbikes, pubs/social drinking. Box 900317 TXT

GARY, 55 years old, 6'3", large build, ex doorman, solvent, looking for someone to love and to have fun times with. Box 900009 TXT

LOOKING for an extrovert, attractive female, 30-50, with a passion for tactile, hungry meetings. I'm 56 and can't wait to hear your voice!. Box 429567 TXT

56 year old man, over 6ft, heavy build, enjoy watching all kinds of sports and socialising, live in Ashford. Box 435364 TXT

56YR old separated male, very lonely, bored (but not boring!), enjoys music but can't dance, seeking a lady to chat to and go from there. Box 436329

HI, I'm Pete, 60, ex-navy officer, still working, 6ft1, very active, looking for someone to enjoy theatre, shows and meals with. Box 437005 TXT

PRESENTABLE, youthful male, 63, 5'10", widowed, likes walking, music, cinema, wltm slim, attractive, quiet female, for possible relationship. Folkestone. Box 376458 TXT

YOUNG 65yr old male, 6ft, 12st, divorced, enjoys driving and angling, seeking a similar slim female to get in touch with and more. Box 436812 TXT

Men for men

HI I'm 6ft, 22, honest, genuine and loveable, WLTM like-minded outgoing, adventurous men to help me on my journey!. Box 436779 TXT

GENUINE male, 25, 6ft, medium build, brown hair/hazel eyes, enjoys pubs/clubs, cinema, cosy nights, seeking male with GSOH, for fun, friendship, maybe more. Box 437002 TXT

I'M Paul, 40, genuine, down-2-earth, 5'9", GSOH, brown hair, blue eyes, average build, likes movies, DIY, theatre, keeping fit, travelling, looking for young male, non-smoker. Box 423252 TXT

HI there I'm 40, 6ft, green eyes, blonde hair, own house, enjoy pubs, keeping fit, seeking similar male, sporty, for fun and maybe more. Box 436788 TXT

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LOVING, caring, black African female, 33, school teacher, wltm caring, honest, loving, open, professional man, 35-50 with good values in life, for something meaningful. Box 422460 TXT

AFRICAN lady, 33, brown eyes, likes socialising, music, pubs, cinema, seeks male for friendship and more. Box 413128 TXT

MUM of 1, I'm 5ft4, blonde hair, slim, young looking, 34yrs old. I'm caring, honest, with a GSOH, likes keep-fit, cinema, dancing, days out. Box 431559 TXT

OUTGOING, funny, young-looking female, 34, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, Tonbridge, seeks caring, loyal male for friendship, leading to more. Box 433107 TXT

35YR old woman, looking to share happy moments with a loving, caring guy, around 35-40. Does that sound like you?. Box 435380 TXT

DIVORCED, lively mum, 35, GSOH, enjoys time with my family and friends, cinema, good food, beach walks, seeks male for honesty, love and romance. Box 813930 TXT

I'M an attractive, dark-haired female, 36, who enjoys cinema, coffees, theatre and socialising, seeking a fun, caring, considerate, romantic gent, for a chat and more. Box 436807

INDEPENDENT, professional female, 35, 5'7", fit, GSOH, enjoy travelling, cinema, looking for a like-minded, honest and loyal male to share life with. Box 901771 TXT

MEDWAY female, 36, 5ft8, blue/green eyes, slim, likes dancing, amateur dramatics, walks, much more, looking for someone who could make me laugh, for possible relationship. Box 434372 TXT

36 year old female, divorced with no children, brunette, loves travel, music, cinema, nice meals, theatre, ceroc, salsa, seeking someone for dates and more. Rainham. Box 434374 TXT

HONEST, caring lady, attractive, from Tunbridge Wells, 37, haze-eyes, curvy, 5ft6, with a GSOH, many interests, clubs, cooking, cosy nights, looking for stocky male, 35-45. Box 424364 TXT

ATTRACTIVE, trendy, outgoing, warm female, 30, dark brown eyes are a big feature, curvy but slim, like country pubs etc, wltm spontaneous male for LTR. Box 403299 TXT

HI, I'm Paula, 38, 5'2", with a good nature, looking for fun and someone to go out and have a laugh with. Box 435324 TXT

38YR old single mum, slim, long hair, love rock music, concerts, bikes, in need of attention, love and respect. Box 897114 TXT

DOWN-TO-EARTH, kind and caring, separated, strong-willed Scottish mum, 39, looking for fun, tactile, cute and considerate male who likes noise and chaos. Box 897191 TXT

KIND, caring, spiritual lady, 39, 5'4", average build, hazel puppy-dog eyes, brown hair, looking for genuine, honest guy, non-smoker, friendship first. Box 899694 TXT

ATTRACTIVE 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 TXT

BLACK female, 38, 5ft2, have children, like nights out and cosy nights in, seeking someone to have a laugh with. Box 435423 TXT

BLACK female, 38 years old, 5ft2, likes going out, seeking a sociable male, who likes having a laugh. Gillingham. Box 429656 TXT

MANDY, 38, lovely brunette, petite & slim, very tactile & bubbly, professional mum, wltm honest, romantic N/S man. Box 432639 TXT

KENT female, 39, 57", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862 TXT

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Hero Hayden died trying to save pal on school ski trip

TRAGIC: Hayden, 12, fell to his death

FRIENDS and family of the Kent schoolboy tragically killed during a skiing trip in the Austrian Alps have paid to tribute to an "adventurous little boy".

Hayden Waller died on Monday evening after falling more than 30 feet into a ravine during the Howard School's trip to the Mallnitz resort in Carinthia.

The 12-year-old plunged to his death while trying to save another pupil from falling to his death.

Fellow students at the Rainham school left flowers at the school gates and the headteacher sent his condolences to Hayden's family, who live in Wigmore.

His distraught mother, Hayley, said she did not blame anyone for the death of her "adventurous little boy", saying it had been a "tragic accident".

She said: "Everyone loved him. He was the most loveable, likeable child you could have come across and we are absolutely devastated.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

"I want to make it clear that no one should be blamed for this terrible accident. I am very confident the Howard School staff and everyone involved did everything by the book. This was just a tragic accident.

"Hayden's younger brother will be starting at the Howard in September and I would be perfectly happy to let him go on a similar trip."

Emotional tributes have been paid by the youngster's friends.

Josh Crawfod, a fellow pupil, said: "I go to Hayden's school, I was in his class and I can say that he honestly died a hero. I wish I could have said goodbye to that loyal and trustworthy mate of mine. My condolences and thoughts go out to his younger brother and Hayden's parents. I am deeply sorry to hear the news."

Hayden and three friends, aged between 12 and 14, had decided to go trekking to explore the snow-covered forest around the resort during an afternoon of free time.

His friend, also 12, who has not been named, lost his footing and began to fall down the mountainside.

Hayden tried to grab him, but they both slid over the edge of the ravine. The first boy's fall was broken by a tree, but Hayden fell backwards, Austrian police said.

He died from a broken neck and severe head injuries.

Paul Morris, headteacher at the school, said: "We are still struggling to come to terms with this tragic loss of life and the Waller family remain the focus of our thoughts.

"The trip from Austria has now returned and all the students and staff are back with their families, obviously tired and they remain upset, but I sense relieved to be home."

Medway Council said the authority would play a full part in the investigation into the boy's death.

Horst Wohlgemuth, the Mallnitz police chief, said: "It was an accident – young boys going on an adventure in the nearby wood. I think we all did that when we were children."

He said no one was to blame.

Man in court for murder

A TONBRIDGE man has been charged with murder.

Kenneth Harman, 54, from Cannon Bridge, was due before Sevenoaks magistrates on Wednesday.

The body of Michael Castle, 61, was found on his houseboat Impulse on the River Medway, near Cannon Bridge, Tonbridge, on February 15.

A post mortem carried out last week concluded Mr Castle had died from several stab wounds.

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Kent firm helps our troops keep focus

VIEWING: The current targeting system

FRONT LINE soldiers are to be equipped with a new state-of-the-art target locator system partly made by a Kent firm, ***writes Jamie McGinnes***.

Defence Secretary Des Browne announced a £30 million contract with Thales UK for the Surveillance System and Range Finder (SSARF) equipment.

It allows a soldier to quickly pinpoint the exact location and distance of enemy forces so they can direct artillery fire onto them. The all-weather, day and night system is hand-held, lightweight, with built-in GPS, thermal imaging, and a laser range finder of up to 5km.

Mr Browne said it is speedier, lighter to carry, more accurate and less conspicuous than the current system, which has no thermal imaging, GPS, and is tripod mounted.

Announcing the contract at the Thales UK site in Glasgow, he said: "The ability to see and target accurately at night gives our troops on operations a boost to their capabilities.

"This will help deliver more effective use of firepower and save lives."

Instro Precision Limited, based in Broadstairs, was selected by Thales UK to supply parts – a pan and tilt head – for the targeting system.

The components will be manufactured in Broadstairs and sent to Thales UK's optronics business in Glasgow, where the devices will be assembled.

This contract will directly involve many of Instro's staff across several departments, said sales and marketing director Ian Mitchell.

"We are delighted to be part of Thales UK's SSARF team," he added.

"The procurement process has been tough, involving many months of equipment trials last year, and we are now proud to be part of the team providing our troops with the best that modern technology can offer."

The new system is expected to enter service in 2009. An earlier version, on which SSARF is based, is currently being used on operations.

Kent Highway Services

For information and advice on travelling in Kent, go to page **16**.

For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to pages **53-54**.

Face of the toilet pervert revealed

WANTED: E-fit of the man

POLICE have released an e-fit image of a man wanted for questioning after an alleged indecent assault on a schoolboy.

The incident took place in the downstairs toilets of the Pentagon Centre in Chatham between 6-6.30pm on Friday, December 14.

It is alleged that a 14-year-old boy was waiting outside a cubicle when a man exposed himself to him and then touched his leg. The boy alerted security staff, but they did not catch the man.

The man is described as white and in his early 60s, 5ft 5in to 5ft 6in tall, of large build, but not overweight, with fluffy white hair and a slight quiff at the front.

He was wearing an unzipped grey fleece, dark blue or green shirt and jeans.

DC Paula Patterson said: "We have made a number of inquiries and viewed hours of CCTV footage. Officers have sought potential witnesses and taken a thorough account of the event from the boy involved.

"We have now been able to put together an e-fit of a man we would like to question in relation to the assault and I would like to ask people to study it and get in contact with us if they think they know who it may be."

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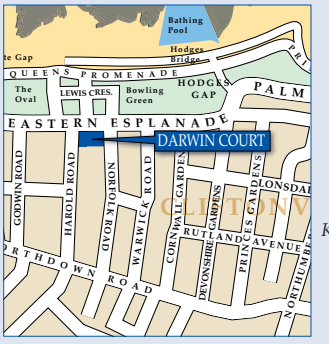

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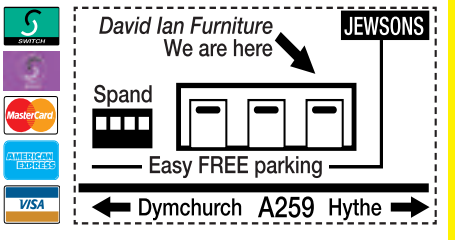

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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Europe facing unclear future

SOUTH East MEPs are geographically closer to Europe than any others in the UK and – with the exception of our three Lib Dem and Labour representatives – they voted overwhelmingly to oppose the EU Reform Treaty on Wednesday.

But they found themselves on the receiving end of a massive defeat.

The issues of whether the document is technically a constitution and if we have a right to vote for or against it in a referendum have dominated discussion of the topic.

It is worth listening to some of the arguments about what the treaty actually contains and its potential ramifications.

Because it is so dense its contents are the subject of myriad interpretations.

South East MEPs opposed to the treaty have tried, but failed to scupper it.

Now, its fate lies in the hands of EU countries, and it is impossible to say what could happen next.

Claims unproven

SOLDIERS from Kent's county regiment have been accused of brutal behaviour against prisoners in Iraq.

A Panorama documentary to be aired tomorrow examines evidence such abuses took place after a battle in 2004.

But before we rush to conclusions, we must bear in mind that these same soldiers have been cleared of wrongdoing in relation to this matter before.

Our soldiers operate under intense pressure and stress, and they deserve to be treated as innocent until proven guilty.

OPINION: Natural born killers

Films have a moral role to play, says JOHN BEYER

THE assertion by the academic Chris Greer that there is "no definitive link" between violence in the media and violence in the real world simply defies common sense. Moreover, it is out of step with scientific opinion.

In his most interesting series, Child of our Time, on BBC1, Professor Robert Winston said: "The average British three-year-old is glued to a TV or computer screen for nearly five hours a day and almost half of all three-year-olds have a TV in their bedroom. Suddenly, the outside world is coming into these children's lives."

He asked: "So does what they watch influence their behaviour? Most scientists now think that TV can encourage violent tendencies. Experiments show how dangerous seeing the wrong kind of lessons on TV could be on a child's developing idea of how to behave."

It is undoubtedly true that social violence has a number of root causes, but it is unreasonable to discount the impact of media violence altogether.

In its 1997 Annual Report the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) wondered "if Hollywood would ever wake up with a conscience about teenagers and the drip-drip effect of films which teach violence, glorify it and celebrate the rewards it brings".

"Academic researchers", the board said, "analysed both the pleasures of violent entertainment and the dangers. They surveyed the prevalence of screen violence country by country. America has the highest crime rates in the developed world and produces the most violent entertainment. The most popular stars are the macho heroes who use violence and demonstrate and validate its use."

Following the release of the brutally and senselessly violent film Natural Born Killers, a BBC Panorama programme in 1995, entitled The Killing Fields, investigated cases in the US where the film had apparently played a role in influencing the commission of crimes similar to those portrayed in the film.

In the Panorama programme, forensic psychiatrist Dr Susan Bailey said: "In the early 80s I encountered, over a five-year period, 20 youngsters who had murdered. A quarter of that group presented me with descriptions of how they had watched violent and pornographic films in the weeks leading up to their offence of murder… they described very vividly the films they had watched and how that had influenced their final act."

The director of the film, Oliver Stone, who was also interviewed, said "film is a powerful medium, film is a drug, film is a potential hallucinogen – it goes into your eye, it goes into your brain, it stimulates and its a dangerous thing – it can be a very subversive thing".

More recently, Natural Born Killers was cited by Lord Puttnam when he said that violent films breed bullies. He said: "We cannot afford to remain blind to the impact films and moving images of all kinds have on young people. You really are tinkering around in people's minds, imprinting emotions, messages and ideas which may well influence them for the rest of their lives."

Since the 1960s, the BBFC has adopted a progressively lenient approach and now the most extreme violence, obscene language and explicit sexual conduct has been passed as suitable for public exhibition.

Increasingly, such material is being classified for younger age groups. In January, for example, the film How She Move, containing strong language and soft drug use, was classified 12A.

The board's decisions have far-reaching ramifications affecting cultural standards, not just in the cinema, but across the country.

Films are a staple part of schedules and around 3,000 are shown every year just on the five main channels. DVDs and downloads from the internet to home computers, laptops and mobile phones play a role too.

Given the moral, social and cultural impact the BBFC has, it is astonishing it has escaped proper scrutiny by Parliament for almost a century. It is surprising that Julian Brazier's modest attempts to make the BBFC more accountable to Parliament seem also to attract prejudiced and discriminatory remarks from some narrow-minded academics.

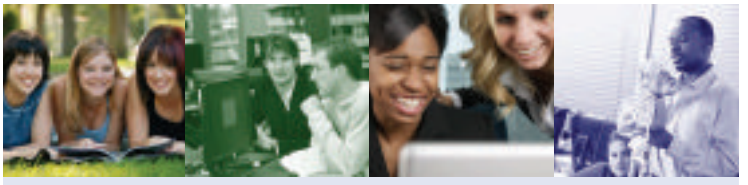
If the problem of social violence is ever to be resolved, harmful media influence cannot be ignored, nor can the industries remain aloof or beyond criticism for the culture of violence to which they have contributed.

We welcome the emphasis now being placed by politicians upon family life, the welfare of children and the promotion of role models.

However, this new ethos must extend to film and television producers, who must play their part in sustaining citizenship and civil society, rather than setting models of behaviour that contribute to society's problems.

It is good this newspaper has given publicity to Mr Brazier's Bill and we would encourage readers to support him.

• ***John Beyer is chairman of Ashford-based mediawatch-uk, which was founded in the 1960s by Mary Whitehouse.***



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Blinkered on airport

So the Thames Estuary airport plan is back on the agenda.

How short sighted and blinkered are the so-called planners who propose an international airport at Cliffe, or for that matter Lydd?

Kent already has an international airport at Manston which has one of the longest runways in Europe. The road structure is already in place, with a dual carriageway from the end of the M2 to the airport.

Why are all our MPs not pointing out the obvious? We do not need two international airports in Kent, let's really get on with it and use the one we have. Not let it go to waste as it is now, from under use.

BA Tregunno
Chatham

Distorted priorities

I note that the Government is committed to spending £110 billion, £3,500 for each of us, to keep Northern Rock, a bank with two million customers afloat.

It is not, however, willing to contemplate £5 from each taxpayer to support a Post Office network with 11.4 million customers.

Simon Hart
Countryside Alliance

Public safety paramount

I am writing in response to your article, 'Revealed: Shock figures on police driver collisions'.

It should be emphasised that every case of explained damage to a police vehicle, including collisions, is recorded by Kent Police.

To remind your readers, the total of 510 collisions quoted in your article range from minor bumps with things like bollards or road cones through to those involving injuries or resulting from police pursuits, of which there are very few.

We also need to bear in mind that some of the collisions were the result of police action to stop stolen vehicles and those driven by offenders trying to avoid arrest after committing serious crime.

In these cases officers use nationally recognised tactics designed to avoid injury to the public.

It is important to highlight that out of the 510 collisions, only 14 of those involved injuries to members of the public when the police were to blame.

Four out of those 14 collisions happened when officers were using blue lights and responding to emergencies.

We have extremely high standards of driver training and all police vehicles carry black boxes to help determine the causes of collisions that take place.

All police pursuits that take place must be authorised in the first instance and are then closely monitored.

If the risk of a pursuit is deemed too great, it is called off. The safety of the public is paramount in any situation Kent Police deals with.

All collisions involving police vehicles are investigated – serious collisions by Kent Police's Serious Collision Investigation Unit (SCIU), and by our Professional Standards Department. Any collision in which a member of the public is injured is automatically referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

I would like to reassure readers that we remain committed to keeping the roads of Kent and Medway safe and our Kent Policing Standard expects our officers at all times to display a good standard of driving.

Adrian Leppard
Deputy Chief Constable
Kent Police

Chief Constable is happy to leave politics to politicians

I would like to challenge the claims made by Cllr David Green, of Ramsgate, two weeks ago, that I am "increasingly political", in a letter that included some comments based on inaccurate reporting in national media on some very detailed research carried out by Kent Police.

My role is apolitical and I am happy to leave politics to politicians.

The migration issue was widely misreported following the leak of a private letter I wrote to the Home Secretary on my concerns about the increased demands of population growth, not solely migration, and the pressure this placed on police resources.

I included as evidence detailed, accurate and highly professional research. Although this identified migration as a significant factor in population growth, the research never, as suggested in some newspaper reports, linked specific crime to the migration issue.

I have repeatedly stressed that we are more likely to deal with migrants when they are victims of or witnesses to crime and this alone can increase the demand on our budget through the cost of translation and interpretation. I was certainly not seeking to make any public comment on migration itself.

Michael Fuller
Chief Constable
Kent Police

Police are not valued

Over the past few weeks I have read some very upsetting things about the way the public looks at our police officers.

My son is a police officer, who trained for two years and took an intense driving course. That was the job he chose to do, even though he achieved a first in university.

When he gets a call on his radio, he never knows what he's going to be faced with. Not like these people who go off to the office every morning.

As a devoted and worried mother I had to voice my opinion on the police force.

What is the first thing you do if something goes wrong? You have a fight with your partner; someone runs into your parked car outside your house; a member of your family is hurt while out enjoying his or herself; someone is beaten up and has their mobile phone stolen; you come home one day and your house has been burgled.

I could go on and on. Who is it you call? That's right, the police.

Perhaps you should think about the dangers they have to confront every time they are called out to a job.

It's not a 9-5 job. The hours are antisocial, and they never know what could be around the corner.

I would like to have my son in a 9-5 job, but he chose to help, and look after you, the

Letters continued on p28

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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BIRTHS

BALDOCK
Stewart and Anita of Horsmonden are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Liberty Ariana Baldock born 25th January 2008 weighing 7lb 10oz.

BENNETT
Katie and Adrian of Herne Bay are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Pippa Madeleine, born on 8th February 2008 at QEQM, Margate.

BRACKENBOROUGH
David and Kirsti Brackenborough of Margate celebrate the birth of their son Jack David Brackenborough on 28th January 2008. A brother to Grace-Jayne

BROWN
Charlie and Sarah of Goudhurst are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Helena Megan Brown born 28th January 2008 weighing 6lb 5oz.

CAMPION
Isabel Jessie born on 12th February 2008, weighing 7lb 5oz. Daughter to Darren and Lyndsey in Ramsgate.

CLARK
Sarah and Paul Clark of Staplehurst celebrate the birth of their daughter Sophie Anne Clark on 7th February 2008.

CLOKE
Nathan, Hayley and Naomi Cloke celebrate the birth of Abigail Jade on 3rd February 2008.

COLLINS
Layne & Katie of Bromley are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Amelia Grace on January 31st, weighing 7lb 6oz. First grandchild for Christine and Glenn of Broadstairs.

COURTNEY
Amanda Steadman and Dan Courtney are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby boy Samuel Jimi Philip Courtney born on 13/01/08 at 10:41pm weighing at 7lb 3oz.

DAVISON
Reece Darren born on 30th January 2008 in Ashford Brother to Lydia and Keira son to Lisa and Robert.

DELVES
Peter and Jeni Delves of Tunbridge Wells are delighted to announce the birth of their son Archie Pierson Delves born 8th February 2008 weighing 8lb 15oz.

DIXON
Skye Rose Dixon born 6th February 2008 weighing 8lb 3oz. Love from Mummy and Daddy x x x

DOHERTY
James and Lynn are delighted to announce the birth of their gorgeous son George Alexander Doherty, who was born at Darent Valley Hospital on 4th February 2008. George was born at 1.20am weighing 7lb 4oz.

GIBBS
Welcome to the world Summer Louise born on 24th January 2008 weighing 6lb 3oz. A beautiful daughter for Tom and Hazel a baby sister for Angel.

GIBSON
Bram and Abi are delighted to announce the birthh of their beautiful daughter Anastasia Ruth. She was born on the 14th January 2008 at 1.10pm and weighed 7lb 14oz.

GILLMORE
Oliver William born on 8th February 2008, weighing 8lb 7oz. Son to Sophie and Christopher Gillmore of West Malling.

IBBOTSON
Jessica and Paul Ibbotson celebrate the birth of their son Henry Paul Ibbotson on the 7th February 2008 at the QEQM

IBIDAPO
Phillips and Marjory celebrate the birth of their Daughter Tashinga Rachel Oluwayemisi, born on 12th February 2008 at the William Harvey Hospital, weighing 6lb 13oz.

KIRBY
Katrina and Benjamin Kirby of Maidstone celebrate the birth of their son Jaiden Alan John Kirby on 10th February 2008.

LINE
Sharon and Les Line of Larkfield celebrate the birth of their son Haydon Miles Line on the 11th February 2008 weighing 8lb 11oz.

MACLEAN
Ali and Jo Maclean of Tunbridge Wells are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Ellen Aimee Maclean born 11th February 2008 weighing 7lb 13oz.

McKENDRICK
Ian and Kirsty are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Isabel Kaitlyn on the 14th January 2008 at Darenth Valley hospital weighing 6lb 2oz.

MEWETT
Harry born on 25th January 2008, weighing 7lb 7oz. Son to Janet and Timothy Mewett in Maidstone

O'NEIL
Colin and Claire of Brookland are delighted to announce the birth of their son Thomas Stewart Callen, born on 25th January 2008, weighing 5lb 15oz.

ORR - LANG
Charlie George John born on 15th February 2008, weighing 6lb15oz. Son to Raymond and Tara in Ramsgate

PARRY
Rowan Gene born on 7th February 2008, weighing 8lb 3oz. A son to Vincent and Alexandra of Faversham and a brother for Sophia.

RICHARDSON
Ella was born on the 28th January 2008 weighing 9lb 14oz. Daughter to Peter and Barbara Richardson.

RIGDEN
Charlotte Georgia born on 11th February 2008, weighing 7lb 13oz. Daughter to Felicity and Jonathan in Whitfield. A sister for Rachael and Jamie.

ROCHFORD
Louise and Chris are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Ilyana Jessica Louise at Pembury Hospital on 2nd of January 2008.

SMITH
Calvin and Sophie are delighted to announce the birth of their baby boy Jenson Edward Smith born on the 10th February 2008.

STEWART
Marvin and Katie (nee Doddington) celebrate the birth of their son Nathaniel Marcus Stewart born on the 12th February 2008.

SUMMERS
Scott and Lisa Summers of Five Oak Green are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Ruby Mary Anne Summers born 9th February 2008 weighing 6lb 15oz.

WILSON
Dulcie Charlene born on 7th February 2008 weighing 8lb. A beautiful daughter for Henry and Charlene, baby sister for Henry-Lee.

WOTTON
James and Kerry Wotton of Maidstone celebrate the birth of their daughter Hannah Susan Jane on 11th February 2008, weighing 7lb 3oz.

DEATHS

ADE
John Ade of Littlebourne, died suddenly on 14th February 2008 at home aged 83 years. Will be sadly missed by all who knew him, wife Sheila, Children Carol, Debbie, John, Clive, Jane and all the grandchildren. Cremation at Barham 2pm Tuesday 26th February 2008. Family flowers only, donations to Cancer Research UK, c/o C. W. Lyons and Sons Ltd, Canterbury.

CORSBIE-FABES
Sylvia Corsbie-Fabes of The Royal British Legion Village in Aylesford passed away peacefully after a long illness on 8th February 2008, aged 81.

FAGG
Joyce Evelyn Fagg, passed away suddenly on 14th February 2008. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. For funeral details contact Earl and Co 01233 620522.

GREGORY
Arthur Edward died at the William Harvey Hospital on 10th February 2008. Will be sadly missed by his wife Jean, all his family and friends.

KENWARD
Vanessa Lynn Kenward of Maidstone passed away at The Heart of Kent Hospice on 18th February 2008, aged 37. Enquiries to Pickard and Beale, Maidstone 01622 677155.

PASCALL
David William Pascall of Dover passed away peacefully on 17th February 2008. To live in the hearts of those left behind is to live forever.

SCAMP
John William George died peacefully at the William Harvey Hospital on 13th February 2008, aged 75. Will be sadly missed by his wife Annie, and all his family and friends.

SWIFT
Brian Leslie Swift passed away peacefully on 18th February 2008 after a long and hard fought illness. He will be sadly misssed by his family and friends. Enquiries to funeral director Co-op Dartford.

WARNER
Joseph Warner passed away on 13th February 2008. Enquiries to Cavells Funerals 01304 373275.

WOODWARD
Walter Henry passed away on 13th February 2008.Enquiries to Palmers Funerals Ramsgate 01843 592720.

Letters continued from p27

members of the public.

So the next time you wish to pull the police to pieces for doing their job, like arresting an 82-year-old man for dangerous driving at night, think what would have happened if a member of your family had been in his way?

Name supplied
Chestfield

Insurance cover

If I was the Chief Constable of Kent I would be embarrassed to know my staff had this many accidents and injuries.

If it was a private company whose drivers caused all that damage they would not get insurance cover.

It is about time someone put a stop to high-speed driving.

Surely it is better to arrive at your destination albeit a few minutes later than not arrive at all, and possibly seriously injure or even kill an innocent person in the process.

The police will say that their drivers are highly trained.

But they are not superhuman, they do not know what's around a blind bend, especially on country roads where horses or slow-moving farm vehicles may be travelling, let's hope that more of these collisions are avoided.

J Watson
Tenterden

Parish audacity

The audacity of High Halstow parish council, in once again unanimously nodding through an eye-watering hike in the parish precept for 2008-09, beggars belief.

With last year's tax increase of 37.7 per cent and this year's of 29.2 per cent, the best spin that can be put on the figures is that the rate of increase is falling.

During a period when local councils, Medway included, are being capped at increases of five per cent, these profligate spenders are trying to live beyond the village residents' means.

It should also be remembered that funds for public sector grants, whether from the local council, national exchequer or even our beneficent EU, come from taxpayers, and even corporate grants, when squandered, is money wasted.

Grandiose replacement schemes for village halls and children's playgrounds are out of place when the throwaway mentality of the recent past is being questioned.

Instead, the adequate facilities that we have in place should be maintained, and upgraded as necessary.

At a time when pundits are predicting the need for belt-tightening measures all round, is not the right time for the parish council to be dipping their hands deeper into our pockets.

James Jones
High Halstow

A duty to enforce

Regarding your article about TV Licensing, there are three factual inaccuracies, which I would like to clarify for your readers.

Firstly, the UK is not the only country in the world which operates a television licence. In fact, in Europe alone 10 other countries have a TV licensing system similar to the UK including Germany, Italy, Ireland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

Secondly, the TV licence is not "a fee to allow people to own a television set", it is a permit for watching or recording programmes as they are broadcast, irrespective of whether you use a TV set, computer, mobile phone or any other device to do so.

Finally, there is no evidence of "thousands" of care home residents in Kent expressing anxiety about their TV licence, or paying the full licence fee when they don't need to.

TV Licensing has a duty to enforce the licence fee and apply the law correctly, as we were doing at the time in the 2006 case mentioned.

TV Licensing regulations for care homes have now changed and people no longer need to buy an additional licence to cover them during respite stays in residential care.

Joanna Pearce
TV Licensing

Clean up your act

Your paper is to be commended for its campaign on hand hygiene.

The message is simple, the actions are simple, but getting people to respond is not simple.

Last October, the Patient and Public Involvement Forum for the East Kent Hospitals investigated the use of the alcohol rubs, now commonly seen in all hospitals and elsewhere.

Observations were made on those people who used them and those that did not.

People were recorded according to their category, such as patients, visitors, doctors, nurses etc.

The effects of some new eye-catching floor signs were also investigated.

The results from observations at 10 different ward entrances at each of the three major East Kent Hospitals showed considerable variation in usage, with some areas having no more than 20 per cent of people using the alcohol hand rubs.

The presence of the floor signs generally improved the usage, increasing it to 50 per cent and sometimes more.

When the audit was repeated in January, by which time floor signs were present in many locations, the usage rate had further improved and at best was over 70 per cent, but there were still some areas where the dispensers were ignored by many people.

Visitors were the largest group of offenders, being consistently below the other groups in all locations.

These observations give a clear indication of the difficulty of persuading people to clean their hands.

If everyone entering the hospital and leaving used the alcohol rubs, it will reduce the risk of spreading infections.

Cleaning hands using alcohol is only one aspect of hand cleaning and it is equally important to use soap and water, wherever possible.

The campaign by the forum, the NHS and your newspapers, has helped to make people aware of the need for hand cleaning and also made them aware that the signs in the hospitals refers to all people not just those who work there.

Maureen Moore
Chairwoman
East Kent Hospitals PPI Forum

Airport? No thanks

Kent does not need another airport. Kent may still be called the Garden of England, but it isn't anymore. It's just bricks and buildings. More than our roads can take, without another airport.

P Foote
Rochester

Take to the streets over price rises

I refer to an article by Phil Reilly last week about the energy price hike.

I say this: until the people of this country stand up and be counted we will continue to be held to ransom, not only by the power companies but also by BT.

There will be quite a lot of people who will not be able to afford these price hikes, more so pensioners and people with your families, I am a pensioner with health problems and with an 88-year-old wife who is severely disabled.

Who cares?

Do your MPs? No they don't, they are too busy looking after their own pockets.

You have two EDMs on the floor of the House of Commons, Ofgem has already told the Government that the energy companies are not ripping us off, that's the body who is supposed to look after our interests.

Until we do what the French people do – take to the streets – we will go nowhere.

EW Shannon
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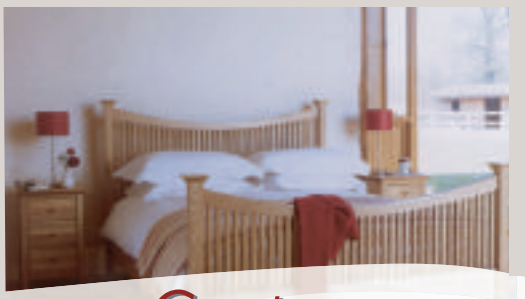

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Young chefs cook up a storm

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE cream of the county's young cooking talent took part in the finals of the Kent Young Chef competition.

After much deliberation by the judges, Mark McEachran from Thanet College, was judged the winner.

Budding young Gordon Ramsays gathered at Thanet College in Broadstairs for the event, which is run by Produced in Kent, a company that champions local food and drink.

Seven catering college chefs went head to head cooking a two-course meal using locally sourced products.

DELICIOUS: Mark McEachran of Thanet College won the competition

A top judging panel, including Mark Rossi, executive chef at Abode Hotel, Canterbury, Neil Wiggins, head chef at Eastwell Manor, Ashford, John Warnett, of BBC Radio Kent and Adrian Robbins, from event sponsor Whitehead Monckton Solicitors, supervised the big cook-off.

Mr McEachran impressed the judges with his dishes of pigeon and a modern spin on rhubarb crumble winning £500, a set of knives, a chef's jacket, work experience at the Abode Hotel and a masterclass from Mr Rossi for students at his college.

Mr Rossi said: "This was a great event, the standard was very good and there was little to choose from in terms of first and second place.

"It was a very positive experience for the young chefs as it makes them think about costings, food miles and quality of ingredients at the same time as making them execute their skills in a pressurised situation."

Julian Snavely, also from Thanet College, came in second.

Roger Phillips, head of catering at the winning college, said: "This was a fantastic event. It was the first time it has been run and we really want to build on this. Everything you could want, in terms of quality ingredients is here on our doorstep in Kent. There is so much enthusiasm for cooking and events like this give a real buzz to the students."

The prizes will be presented at the Taste of Kent Awards on Wednesday, February 27.

After submitting a recipe they had designed, which had to stick to a budget of £5 per head, the young chefs had to cook their main course as well as produce a desert from two mystery ingredients – rhubarb and stem ginger.

Produced in Kent now want to make the competition an annual event.

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Film student's tips on movie industry

A FILM student gave a masterclass at his old college about his experience in the industry.

Kieran Nicholas, 23, completed a National Diploma in film and TV media at Thanet College in 2005.

He is currently studying a three-year foundation degree in post production (editing) at Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication in Chislehurst. Within the first year, he was offered the position of assistant online editor for a new film with Motionfx, which has worked on the cinematography of productions such as This is England.

Mr Nicholas admitted juggling work and university could be very tiring and involved long hours, but said: "From day one I have loved every minute of it and wouldn't change a thing."

He decided media studies was the career path for him while at Thanet College.

Mr Nicholas was inspired by the work experience his tutor and lecturers arranged with local film companies.

During the work placements, he showed such hard work and dedication that it opened many doors – his first being the assistant editor role on a local production.

Thanet College lecturer Nigel Breadman said: "The students have been very fortunate to have had an inspiring talk and a masterclass in visual effects from someone who was in the very same position just a few years ago."

Dropout's money-making tips

A MAN who went from school dropout to multimillionaire entrepreneur will be sharing the secrets of his success.

Graham Webb MBE, who co-founded a successful hair care business, will give a free lecture at Canterbury Christ Church University on Friday, March 7.

Mr Webb, who was raised on a council estate in London, overcame spina bifida to become a business success.

The event is open to everybody and Mr Webb will be signing copies of his autobiography, Out of the Bottle.

For details call 01227 782 531.

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Please forward your CV including current salary and expectations to Claire Keith, The Kings Ferry, The Travel Centre, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 6HW or email claire.keith@thekingsferry.co.uk.

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1st & 2nd March 2008

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We are staging recruitment fairs to recruit temporary staff to provide essential extra support during our busy season from March to October.
If you would like to join our dedicated team of staff and help contribute to the work and continuing success of the parks come along to our recruitment open days and find out more about the following seasonal jobs on offer.
We need: retail sales assistants, admissions staff, gardeners and grounds staff, catering staff, safari trailer drivers, chefs & waiting staff, animal presenters and volunteers to help in our dedicated education centres. Experience isn't always necessary, as full training will be provided.
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Chaucer Homecare is a Registered Charity based in Canterbury, Kent, offering a range of services to support and promote independence for people with mental health problems living in the community.

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Conservation Officer (Policy & Planning)

Salary range £21,806 - £25,872

You will take responsibility for the Trust's work on Local Development Frameworks, major development proposals and other strategically important development issues, where the opportunities are already in place to make real gains for wildlife.

Closing date for applications - 20th March 2008

Living Landscapes Team Leader

Salary range £21,806 - £28,581

You will be responsible for taking forward the Trust's work on promoting and delivering the restoration of biodiversity at the landscape-scale. The post will have line management responsibilities and will involve co-ordination with other Wildlife Trusts in the South East region.

Closing date for applications – 17th March 2008

Living Landscapes Project Officer

Salary range £19,096 - £23,161

You will be driving forward the delivery of landscape scale biodiversity restoration projects within identified project areas, bringing together stakeholders, co-ordinating and facilitating the work of project partners, and working to make real change happen on the ground.

Closing date for applications – 17th March 2008

For full details and application form please contact:
Dot Hughes on 01622 662012
email: dot.hughes@kentwildlife.org.uk
visit: www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk

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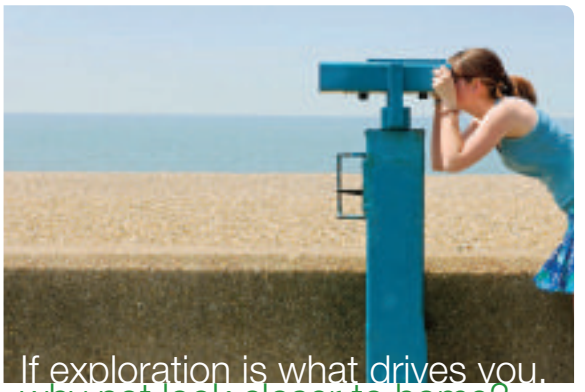

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REF: 469 - EVALUATION ASSISTANT FAVERSHAM

Salary: £14,492 - £16,217 (SCP 12-17)
37 hours per week
Temporary Post initially until 31 October 2008

You will be a key member of the Psychological Therapies Team, based at KCA's Faversham office. This role requires proficiency in data input and experience in using Microsoft Office. You will also be the first point of contact for clients and staff contacting the office so will need to respond to people in a professional manner and have good communication skills.

Whilst the vacancy is currently for six months, there may be an opportunity to extend the contract. If you have any queries about the role please contact Smita Derodra on 01795 590212.

Closing date: 3rd March 2008
Interview date: 13th March 2008

Application forms are available from KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT. Tel: 01795 590635, Fax: 01795 539351, Email marina@kca.org.uk, Web site www.kca.org.uk.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.

Charity No: 292824

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services. Founded in 1975 and currently employing over 300 paid and unpaid staff, it has an annual income of £11 million and is becoming established as one of the leading service providers in the South East Region.

K·C·A Service in the Community

REF: 470 - SCRIPTBASE/PHARMACY LIAISON WORKER – ASHFORD

Salary £16,217 - £18,430 (SCP 17-21) – 37 hours per week

This is an administrative/PR role which requires a high degree of accuracy and meticulousness as you will be responsible for providing a high quality management of all aspects of the prescription database. In addition you will provide an efficient and professional liaison service between the medical staff, keyworkers and pharmacists participating in the work of the Prescribing Service.

You will need to have good secretarial skills with experience of word processing using Word for Windows, good database experience and excellent communication skills. An ability to remain calm under pressure would be a great advantage.

If you would like more information about the post please call Mayur Derodra on 01622 690944.

Closing date: Friday 14th March 2008 at 5.00 pm
Interview date: Wednesday 2nd April 2008

REF: 472 - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – DAY PROGRAMMES – CANTERBURY

Salary: £16,217 - £18,430 (SCP 17 - 21) pro rata – 15 hours per week (9.30 am – 1.30 pm Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri)

As a key member of the Administration Team you will be required to provide efficient and high quality administrative support to the multi-disciplinary staff team and Service Manager at KCA Day Programmes in Canterbury.

You should have sound typing skills combined with a good knowledge in using computer applications, and have the ability to input data accurately. You will also be confident in communicating with a wide cross-section of staff, external contacts and service users alike. We are looking for someone who enjoys working within a busy, often demanding environment, has the ability to prioritise, and can work on their own to tight deadlines. Experience of developing and maintaining efficient office systems and supporting a Service Manager with multiple bases would be an advantage.

If you would like to discuss this post further, please contact Linda Ranger, (Service Manager Day Programmes) on 01227 781297 or Christine Gordon (Admin Lead) on 01795 590795.

Closing date: Friday 7th March 2008 at 5:00 pm
Interview date: Friday 14th March 2008

For application forms please contact Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT, Telephone 01795 590635, Fax 01795 539351, Email marina@kca.org.uk, website www.kca.org.uk

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.

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- Experience of IT networks and applications
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For an application form and information pack please call 01843 862123 during normal office hours (9a.m. to 5p.m. Mon to Fri), or email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk.

Please note that CVs will not be considered.

Applications should be received no later than 12 noon, Friday 7th March 2008.

Selection events will take place on 25th March and 1st April 2008

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Jobsforkent.co.uk continued on page 47

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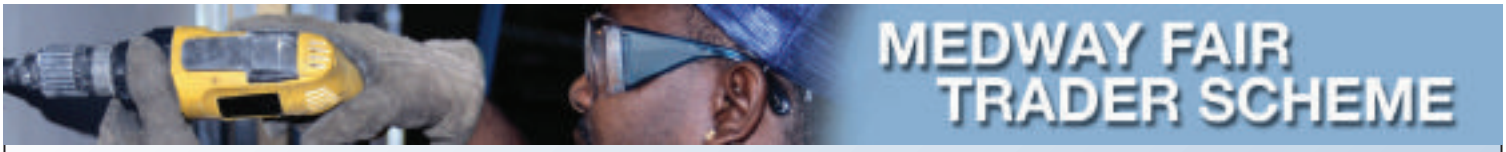

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Minicom:
01634 333111

Email:
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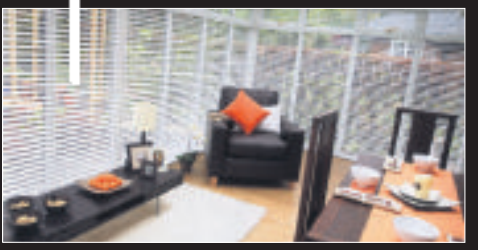

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Are you sitting on a fortune?

BRITONS have an estimated £51 million in coppers lying around their homes. The Royal Mint has guessed that the average household has an 'idle stockpile' of £27 stashed in jars, down the back of the sofa or under seats in the car that will never go back into circulation. Another recent study suggests £6.5 billion in pennies has disappeared since the decimal system was introduced in 1971.

Not graduating on property ladder

YOU'D think that getting a good education is the key to a more secure financial future. But a recent survey has shown that more than half of the people who graduated in the past 10 years have been unable to buy their own home. Just 44 per cent got on the property ladder, with most citing affordability and debt as the biggest barriers.

Garden insurance

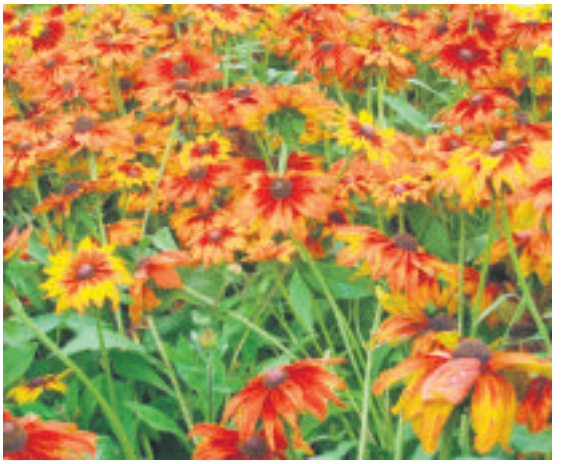
DID you know, approximately one in 10 insurance policies exclude the contents of your garden, so things like garden furniture, children's bikes and trampolines are not covered against loss and damage through theft, storm and flooding. Check whether your home insurance has a 'contents in the open' exclusion in your policy and what level of cover you have.

Drop a degree

TURNING down the thermostat on your central heating by just one degree could save you almost 10 per cent on your heating bill. And, according to the Environment Agency, over the year, this will save about 240kg of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere, which is equivalent to the amount absorbed by about 80 trees. So it's good for your pocket and the environment.

No family days

TRADITIONAL family life is being destroyed because millions of parents have to work weekends. Recent research has found that more than four in 10 parents with young children have to regularly work weekends, especially on a Saturday, which means that families are finding it impossible to plan any quality time together.



DIMENSIONS: Use warm colours nearer to the house, mixing red, orange and yellow like Rudbeckia hirta Cappucino (above left); a short garden can appear longer by using blues and purples along the farthest boundary like Agastache Black Adder (above right)

Change your perspective

Clever use of colour in the garden can give the impression of depth or distance to enhance it

By **JANE JEWITT**

GERTRUDE Jekyll's borders are famous, among other things, for their use of colour. The borders pass through the colours of the spectrum, from hot yellows and oranges to cool blues and purples.

Using colours in this way can alter the perspective in a garden, and it is something that can easily be tried in a small modern garden.

A short garden can be made to appear longer by using blues and purples along the farthest boundary. The cool colours recede, and so they will give an impression of depth or distance. Use warm colours nearer to the house, mixing red, orange and yellow.

Hot colours planted nearest to the house have the strength to hold the eye's attention. You will be able increase the apparent depth of your garden if you use big flowers such as hybrid Tea roses, lilies and poppies close to the house and correspondingly smaller flowers further away.

Your gaze will linger on the hot colours, keen to examine the form of the flower, and so it will take more time to see the whole garden, giving the impression of a larger plot.

You may want to place a stone statue or an urn on the far boundary as a focal point, bit choose the size of the statue with care. The smaller the statue, the further away it will appear.

Take the shape of the garden into account too. If your garden is of irregular shape you can break it down into separate areas, each with a different season, colour or theme. Use the aspect and microclimate to help you decide the purpose for each area.

If you need lawn for the children to play a game of football or tennis, so be it. Otherwise break up the expanse of lawn with beds or specimen plants. This will make your garden look bigger too, as your eye will wander to and fro, being unable to take the whole garden in with one glance.

Plants are seasonal, and it is impossible to achieve colour theming in a small garden all-year round.

Choose your season, is your garden best in spring, which way does it face, is it a woodland garden? Decide if you want the garden to look its best in the height of summer, when you will be outside barbecuing away every evening. Or maybe you want it to be at its best for a summer birthday party. Once you have decided on the season you can plan your planting scheme.

Carry environmental message

PLASTIC bags and the damaging effect they have on the environment have become one of the hottest environmental issues in recent years.

By CHARLOTTE WILSON

Brits get through billions of plastic bags a year, around 300 per person.

Made out of polythene, the ubiquitous plastic bag is not only hazardous to manufacture but is said to take up to 1,000 years to decompose.

Each year, the entire planet goes through about a trillion carrier bags, which together use about 50 million barrels of oil to produce. The amount of petrol used to make one plastic bag would drive a car about 115 metres.

Of course, the problem is not just one belonging to the UK, but a worldwide issue.

In South Africa, plastic bags have been christened 'national flower' because they can be seen flapping from fences and caught in bushes.

In India, the cow, which is treated as a sacred animal and is free to roam at its leisure, has become one of the main casualties. As they forage for food on the street, many end up choking or starving to death on plastic bags.

The same grisly demise happens to turtles, as they commonly mistake bags for jellyfish. In fact, of all the hazardous materials littering our seas today, plastic poses the greatest threat. It causes death and injury to hundreds of thousands of sea birds and marine species every year through entanglement and ingestion.

In 2002, Ireland introduced a tax on plastic bags to try and curb the problem. Highly successful, the scheme has resulted in a 90 per cent cut in use.

Many towns throughout the UK are in the process of banning the plastic bag. Shoppers are instead encouraged to use reusable bags and in response to this, many companies are now offering reusable alternatives.

To see for yourselves the damage plastic bags have on the environment, an exhibition is currently on display at Deal Library in Broad Street, Deal. The group responsible for the exhibition – Deal With It – is currently campaigning to make Deal the first plastic bag free town in Kent.

Visits to the supermarket these days reveal growing numbers of shoppers armed with reusable bags – a sign that the message is beginning to get through.

Speaking from personal experience, I have found that many of the reusable bags although very good, are not big enough and, despite my best intentions, I have ended up having to use plastic bags as well.

One company that is addressing the problem with size is Quirkybags. Starting life neatly folded into an 11cm long tube, the Magic Bag easily opens into a massive but stylish shopping bag.

Small enough to keep in a pocket or handbag, the Tintamar Magic Bag easily reverts back to its storage size aided by a simple, but ingenious, metal ring.

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The Tintamar Magic Bag has an RRP of £9.95 and is available in a range of colours from Quirkybags.

Visitors to the website will also find a selection of reusable bags called Onya Original – superb multi-purpose bags that pack away into their own tiny keyring-sized pouch.

The Onya Original is generously sized with a capacity of almost 15 litres enabling it to hold several kilos of shopping – more than most of us could comfortably carry.

A built-in shoulder strap and comfortable carry handles make the Onya easy to carry and when not in use it simply and neatly stows away and can be clipped to your keyring or handbag or rucksack.

Onya Original is available with a RRP of £6.95 and are available in a spectrum of colours including chocolate, olive, Royal blue, charcoal, indigo blue, lime, turquoise, black, pink and red.

To place an order call 01580 480249, e-mail sales@quirkybags.co.uk or order online at www.quirkybags.co.uk.

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Make your home a pollutant-free zone

By **CHARLOTTE WILSON**

AS WE learn more about the chemicals used in household products and the damage they can do to our health as well as the environment, more chemical-free products are beginning to emerge.

Studies on human exposure to pollutants conducted by the US Environmental Protection Agency indicate the levels for many pollutants may be two to five times higher indoors than outdoors. These findings are corroborated by studies from the UK Medical Research Council, which found levels to be 1.5 to 2.5 times higher. The overwhelming fragrance that most conventional cleaning products give off should indicate to you just how unnatural they are.

A large number of chemicals used in cleaning products started out as surplus industrial chemicals left over from World War Two.

Increased demand for effective cleaning products meant little consideration was given to the long-term effects of the use of such chemicals in our daily lives.

Cancer

Medical research has shown that increases in asthma, skin irritation and even cancer indicate that we are using too many strong chemicals in our homes.

Before cleaning products were available as part of the convenience of modern living, generations before us used natural cleaning products such as vinegar and hot water for cleaning greasy surfaces, soda crystals to clean work surfaces and sinks, lemon juice to clean toilets, and bicarbonate of soda to clean ovens and cooker tops.

Natural House offers a range of chemical-free products that are made using proven recipes from our grandparents' generation, including vinegar and lemon and combines them with more recently discovered ingredients such as quillaja from South America – known for its gentle detergent properties.

Carole Harvey, founder of Natural House products, said: "You owe it to yourself and your children to detox your home. So replace those manmade chemical cleaners under your kitchen sink with 100 per cent natural alternatives."

Surface Spa from Natural House is a great multi-tasking product – and like all its products, is Soil Association certified and uses highly effective ingredients straight from 'mother nature'.

Natural House also sells 'Dish Spa' washing up liquid and a liquid hand soap with a natural fragrance of lime, pine and spearmint.

The five essential products at Natural House include:

- Dish Spa – washing up liquid priced at £5.15 for 500ml
- Salad Spa – wash for fruit and vegetables £5.35 for 500ml
- Surface Spa – multi-surface cleaner £4.70 for 500ml
- Bathroom Spa – £4.85 for 500ml
- Window Spa – cleaner for glass and mirrors £4.70 for 500ml.

Being Soil Association certified guarantees that Natural House products are not only organic but free from petroleum derivatives, synthetic preservatives, artificial fragrance and colourings or potentially harmful chemicals.

It also guarantees the entire production cycle is checked for unsuitable processes and intermediate chemicals during manufacture, and that packaging meets strict criteria for sustainability.

Natural House products can be purchased via the website at www.natural-house.co.uk and from Waitrose and John Lewis stores.

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Helle knows how to create the feeling of a sense of space – even if you haven't got the natural space to offer, she can help make your home a comfortable and welcoming space.

Helle helps offer some expert tips to help brighten up your home this winter.

With a few weeks still to go before spring sets in, most of us need a boost. With less natural light our mood is easily affected – so here are some tips to get through the last weeks of winter.

- Colour is a great mood regulator. If you are redecorating go for colours that make you feel good. Avoid dark matt colours and choose warm colours if you want a relaxing atmosphere. Vibrant colours are great too – but probably better used with accessories
- Make sure you don't block out natural light sources
- In a small room light up each corner – it will make the room seem bigger as well as brighter
- You can create moods with different colour light bulbs. Red and yellow tinted bulbs create a warm and intimate atmosphere. With blue and green tinted light the mood is cooler and more serene
- Clearing a room of clutter and old unwanted magazines will refresh. And adding a bunch of colourful flowers adds a welcoming touch.

1. Filigran vases by Lin Utzon in Violet from Rosendahl from £24.95
www.rosendahl.com

2. Floor lamp by Arne Jaconsen from Louis Poulsen £485
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3. Lenleys floor lamp from Ligne Rosset. An adjustable floor standard at £490.
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Interior designer, Helle Clarke answers one reader's design dilemma

Q Our living room is quite small. How do I obtain a more spacious feel? I would like to be adventurous and add wallpaper, but am not sure it would be OK for the size of the room. Do you have any suggestions?
EW, Kent

A With a small room it is important to draw the attention away from the edges of the room. Your furniture is better at right angles, but avoid placing a sofa right up against a wall. You don't necessarily need to be able to walk behind the sofa – but leave enough space that the sofa doesn't seem squeezed in.

Wallpaper is a great feature and there are so many on the market now. Because your room is small I would suggest you choose one wall to decorate as the room might otherwise seem crowded. Alternatively, you could cover a large piece of mdf with your favourite wallpaper. It is less work, more economical and you could change the paper easily. Placing a large rectangular board would make your room look larger as well. Good luck.

If you have any questions you'd like to ask Helle, please e-mail them to helle.clarke@btconnect.com or post them, marked Homes & Gardens Q & A, to KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR.

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Invest in cool, modern art the White way

DESCRIBED in one magazine as "the coolest, must-have artist on the planet", Todd White reinforces this statement by being a favourite among Hollywood superstars with the likes of Vin Diesel and Hugh Hefner snapping up his work.

Following the sell-out success of his 2005 UK debut editions, White's work is now available for the first time in Dartford at the Duncan Pearson Gallery.

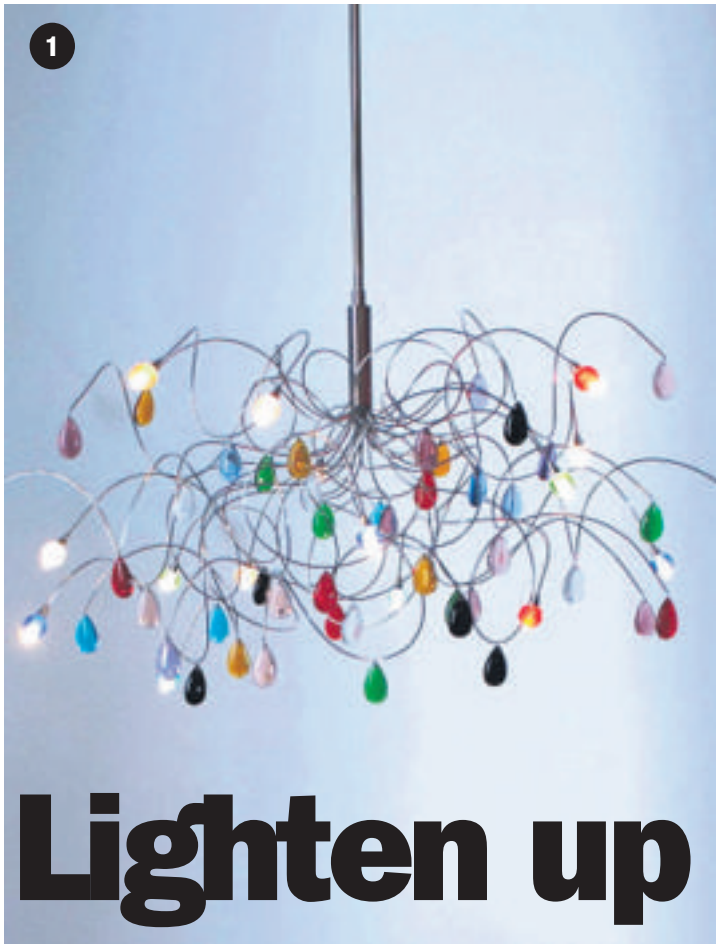
White's work, which is recommended as a pension plan investment and will make a fabulous statement in any home, portrays the glamour of Hollywood that Todd inhabits.

Formerly a character designer for cartoons such as SpongeBob SquarePants and Tiny Toons, his art reflects his previous work with every face in every picture telling a complex story.

Todd said: "I actually name my pieces first and then I visualise each face and its personality – then I develop each person's story. I've been there, I know them!"

Duncan Pearson, from the Dartford gallery, said: "It's incredibly exciting to be one of the few galleries in the UK to show Todd's work in public. The interest in his work in America is already being repeated over here and I'm expecting a lot of interest over the coming days from those who appreciate something new, fresh and exciting."

Duncan Pearson Gallery is situated at 56 West Hill in Dartford. For further information visit the website at www.duncanpearsongallery.co.uk or call 01322 292 221.



Lighten up

LIGHTING schemes can make or break the overall finish of a room. A successful scheme can not only lift our mood but it can also makes bland rooms look exciting.

Good lighting, which can disguise unsightly features and even alter the dimensions of a space, should enhance and not dominate. Choosing carefully is paramount but it is important to remember that you should never have just one light source. There's nothing nicer than sitting in a well-lit welcoming space where the light flatters the occupants as well as the room.

There are a few simple rules to follow when picking lighting for different rooms.

The living room:

Dimmer switches are great for the lounge or living room. When combined with wall or pendant lights, dimmers will illuminate the room without needing to adjust any other light sources. Just be careful that you don't mount them too high as this can create glare.

Try not to use a single central room light as this will create hard shadows and glare. Using a variety of different light sources will create pools of light for a more interesting effect.

Use a combination of general overhead or wall lighting supplemented by portable light sources such as table, floor or task lamps, or even well positioned ceiling spotlights.

To create a relaxed mood, consider accent lighting hidden behind cornices, bookshelves and glassware displays. Alternatively, try highlighting pictures and paintings with a picture light.

Dining room:

The main light source should be located above the dining table, although if you have a glass table ensure you fit a light diffuser as you don't want to be dazzled by the reflection of the light bulb while you're tucking into your meat and two veg. If you have a long table, think about having one of the long light fittings suspended on wires.

Bathroom:

Care needs to taken when choosing lights for the bathroom as there are strict regulations concerning the type of light you can use.

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For general illumination use either downlighters or flush ceiling lighting – whichever you think suits the decor best.

The latest generation of bathroom mirrors incorporating lights look modern and stylish.

Study:

Desk lamps combine good levels of light and can help reduce glare from a computer screen to help keep you focused on the job in hand.

Standard lamps and floor lamps provide stylish light that bounces off the ceiling.

Combine lamps with a central ceiling fixture to provide an adequate source of light.

Kitchen:

Because we spend a lot of time in the kitchen a high concentration of light is required. Fluorescent tubes under wall mounted units cast an efficient light over work surface and prevent shadows. They also ensure you are not blocking out the light in which you need to work in.

A central light is also important in the kitchen to provide general illumination.

Bedroom:

Try to allow for different levels of light for different purposes. Consider a dimmer switch for the main light source which can be kept low most of the time and turned up when needed. Use bedside lamps for when reading or watching television. Choose ones with a small light source so that you don't disturb each other.

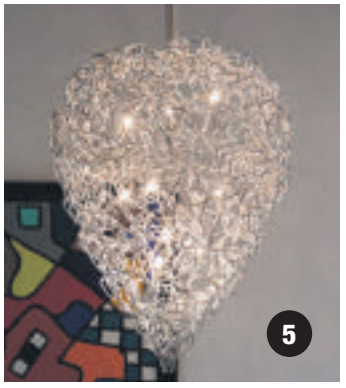
Lighting around the dressing table mirror with wall fixtures either side will ensure no shadows are cast on your face when putting on make-up.

Lighting specialist Prewer & Orsborn, in Canterbury, stocks a full range of lighting solutions for every room in the house.

More than just a showroom, the team at Prewer & Orsborn offers a home or office visiting service, taking samples to see how they look in situ and advising objectively on how well designed lighting can have a transforming effect.

For further information visit the showroom at 20 Burgate, Canterbury, call 01227 765 333, e-mail prewerandorsborn@btconnect.com, or visit the website at www.prewer-orsborn.co.uk.

1. Drops model from Harco Larco Design available at Prewer & Orsborn, Canterbury;
2. Debenhams ball 9 light pendant £350;
3. Reflexion model from Harco Larco Design available at Prewer & Orsborn, Canterbury;
4. Debenhams Future table lamp £130;
5. Carrot model from Harco Larco Design available at Prewer & Orsborn, Canterbury;
6. Papillon lamp from Harco Larco Design available at Prewer & Orsborn, Canterbury



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Time for trees

THIS is the perfect time of year to perfect any trees surrounding your property to ensure they are in tip-top condition for the spring and summer months.

While they are still dormant they can be pruned, which may be a job that needs doing if they have become a safety issue.

An overgrown tree can cause any number of problems so it is important to keep them pruned to prevent any safety issues. Overgrown trees may have branches overhanging property or roads or they may result in diminished levels of light.

It is also the time of year that the wind picks up and the potential of emergencies, falling trees, and broken branches increases.

Wayne Elwell from tree surgery company about... trees explains that the difficulty that people face is how to choose a company they can trust.

"There are some bogus tree companies that are out to make a quick buck – people need to look for a company that is trustworthy and reputable with all the vital insurances.

"You need to be looking out for companies who have fully qualified arborists (tree surgeons) with City and Guilds qualifications and NPTC qualifications, so you can be assured that you're in safe hands. Properly trained arborists know what they are doing, and will carry out any work in a controlled and safe manner, ensuring both themselves and your property is safe from harm."

about... trees is a progressive, modern thinking tree surgery company covering every aspect of tree care, from planting through to felling and removal of problematic trees.

The company is fully insured with Arboricultural Insurance Public Liability of £5 million and employees liability of £10 million.

For further information call Wayne on 01227 273 162 or 07814 577 734 or e-mail abouttrees@btconnect.com.

Handmade style

Add something unique to your home or garden

ACCESSORISING your home with a few carefully chosen pieces can really set it apart in terms of style, especially if those pieces are handmade pieces.

Liberty Hill Gallery, at Kings Hill near West Malling, specialists in contemporary fine and applied arts, has two new ceramicists producing a beautiful range of ceramics – Sylph Baier and Frances Doherty.

Sylph Baier's interest in producing functional tableware originated in Germany while she was working in advertising, which mainly displayed ceramics. Her love and passion for food, backed by a visually exciting eating culture, led her to create many beautiful ranges over the years. Her intention is to produce tableware which is humorous, accessible, sensuous to the touch, functional and which looks great with or without food or drink.

Sylph's current range is mainly form based, drawing on more than 20 years of throwing experience, taking the material to its limits and constantly exploring functionality and purpose.

Sylph's 'Lift Range' is soft and sensuous and is based on the Chakra centres of the human body.

Each piece is individually thrown and designed to not only look aesthetically pleasing but to function well when used with food and drink. This soft tactile range is available with seven different coloured soft candyfloss colours including pink, cream and soft blue.

Sylph said: "The notion that my work is being used and treasured by so many people on a daily basis gives me a great sense of purpose and satisfaction and will keep me going forever and a day."

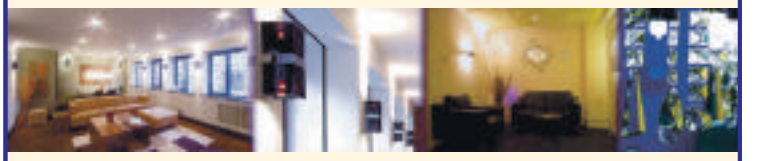
Having owned a restaurant for 10 years before becoming a ceramicist, Frances also has found inspiration for his work through food. She works predominantly with white stoneware; her forms are first thrown and then modelled and the glazes are painted and poured over them and fired at 1,260 degrees. This technique makes Frances' work suitable for outdoor use, and since her inspiration comes from flowers and plants, her work looks at its best nestled amongst natural plants and flowers.

Frances said: "My current work is based on the forms of fruiting bodies, seed pods and flowers. I collect and photograph them and work from the photos or drawings. When you look at these forms close up you can see the beautiful mathematics within them. Nothing is there by chance.

"These forms are often reminiscent of other forms of nature, such as those under the sea."

To see or purchase Sylph's and Frances's work, visit the gallery at 7 Queen Street, Liberty Square, Kings Hill, open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5.30pm.

GOOD LIGHTING MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE



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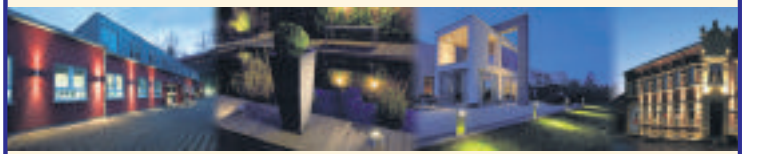

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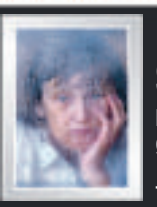

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You must hold a current Fire Extinguisher Trades Association Certificate for servicing portable fire extinguishers and be in possession of an IOSH Managing Safely qualification. A desirable requirement is that you hold or are prepared to work towards the NEBOSH National General Certificate. Experience of working in a prison fire safety environment would be advantageous.
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To obtain a full job description and application pack please apply to: Kent & Sussex Area, Recruitment & Conference Centre, Sir Evelyn Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 3PZ. Telephone: 01634 673033. Fax: 01634 673050. Closing date for applications: 7 March 2008.

These posts are open to part-time and job share applicants. You will be required to declare whether you are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist. The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.

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Closing date: midday, 10 March 2008.

The Alternative Curriculum Co-ordinator in Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley have the following vacancies to work part-time.

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The above two posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

For an informal discussion about the above 2 posts, please contact Joanne Kendall on 01474 544582.

Closing date for the above two posts: midday, 6 March 2008.

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Closing date: 7th March 2008.

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Closing date for applications - Monday, 10th March 2008

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Head of School: Mrs Lynn Ibeji

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E: office@spiresacademy.com

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Would you like to train to be a teacher in a supportive environment with excellent facilities and students who want to learn?

Then you may wish to join us from September 2008 as a

GRADUATE TRAINEE in ICT Maths Science

Spires Academy opened in September 2007 to transform the life chances of students.

Are you committed to developing learning and raising aspirations?

The successful candidate will:

- be enthusiastic and motivated to inspire students to learn
- have a creative approach to children's learning
- be a team player
- have excellent organisational and communication skills
- have high standards for themselves and our students

We can offer you a challenging and rewarding career as part of our new Academy as we continue to offer our students the best opportunities and learning resources.

To apply for this position, please forward a letter of application together with a CV quoting ref: GTP101 by email to Marion Wigington: m.wigington@spiresacademy.com

Closing date: Noon Monday 25th February 2008

Come and be part of an enthusiastic, caring and dynamic team that supports our new Academy and inspires our community.

Twin Specialisms: Business & Enterprise and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts

www.spiresacademy.com

Medway Council

Serving You

Medway Adult Learning Service has the following vacancies at various locations throughout Medway:

Curriculum Manager 0.4fte Ref: COM0906L

Sector 1, Health, Public Services and Care, and Sector 7, Retail and Commercial Enterprise. LNFA scale point 4 – 15. Salary £19,847 – £31,954 pro rata.

Curriculum Manager 0.6fte Ref: COM0907L

Sector 8, Leisure, Travel and Tourism. LNFA scale point 4 – 15. Salary £19,847 – £31,954 pro rata.

You responsibilities will include developing and reviewing an exciting and innovative programme of courses to meet current needs of Medway residents and monitoring delivery to ensure that targets are met and effective quality improvement is implemented.

Applicants should have substantial teaching experience and qualified teaching status. A good knowledge of quality standards in adult learning is required, together with relevant management experience.

For an informal discussion relating to job ref. COM0906L, please contact Sohini Patel on 01634 338343 or email sohini.patel@medway.gov.uk

For an informal discussion relating to job ref. COM0907L, please contact Hanife Dacosta on 01634 338456 or email hanife.dacosta@medway.gov.uk

Learning Support Assistant – Skills for Life: Literacy and Numeracy. Two Posts. Ref: COM0910L

Grade D2 (NJC points 12–21). Salary £14,492 – £18,430 pro rata. Two hours per week.

Applicants must have a good general education including GCSE English and Maths or equivalent, and C&G Level 2 certificate in Adult Learner Support, or equivalent.

For an informal discussion, please contact Chris Osborne on 01634 338423.

To apply for the positions above

visit **www.medway.gov.uk**

call **01634 333333** Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 1pm.
01634 332843 24-hour answerphone.

email **jobs@medway.gov.uk**
quoting the appropriate reference.

Course Leader for Trinity Cert TESOL

Ref: COM0911E

LNFA scale point 4–8. Salary £19,847 – £24,254 pro rata. 200 hours per annum (minimum).

Applicants should hold, as a minimum, a DTEFLA/DELTA or a PGCE in TEFL, or equivalent.

For informal discussion, please contact Lindsay Perrin on 01634 338458.

Part-time Sessional Tutors. Two Posts:

LNFA scale point 1–3. Salary £16,712 – £18,880 pro rata.

Skills for Life ESOL (FLLN) Ref: COM0912E

You will deliver ESOL to parents and carers and both young and school-aged children, focusing on family and school life.

All applicants must have a teaching qualification and Level 4 ESOL subject specialism or be currently working towards their Level 4.

Skills for Life: Numeracy Ref: COM0913E

Applicants must have a teaching qualification and Level 4 subject specialism, or be working towards one.

Other Sessional Tutor Vacancies Ref: COM0914E

Turkish, AutoCad, RYA Dayskipper, Golf, Singing, Keyboarding, Yoga, Exercise/Keepfit for the elderly.

All applicants must hold a suitable teaching qualification.

For an informal discussion about the above posts, please contact Chris Osborne on 01634 338423 or Email: christine.osborne@medway.gov.uk

Any offer of appointment for any of these positions will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced disclosure.

Closing date for all vacancies: 7 March, 2008.

To apply for the positions above

write to **Chris Osborne, Medway Adult Learning Service, Rochester Centre, Eastgate, Rochester, Kent ME1 1EW.**

call **Chris Osborne 01634 338423**

email **christine.osborne@medway.gov.uk**
quoting the appropriate reference.

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Director of MIS

Ref: S2117

Salary: circa £41-46k

We are seeking an exceptional individual to join us at South Kent College. Our senior management team is working to transform the College and we are looking for a skilled and experienced MIS manager with leadership potential who can transfer their skills to this challenging and pivotal role. You will be ambitious and keen to develop your skills whilst leading the MIS, Learner Records and Exams teams through audits and encouraging those teams to further develop their relationships with the curriculum areas.

Ideally educated to degree level or in possession of equivalent qualification and/or relevant experience, you will have a proven track record in managing and motivating people through periods of change in combination with budgetary and resourcing expertise and of course a thorough understanding of funding mechanisms, strategies and issues affecting FE in the post-14 and post-16 arena. Previous experience of working with the Unit-E MIS software would be an advantage, but is not essential.

If this role is the challenge you are looking for and you want to make a difference and a real contribution to Further Education in Kent, then to find out more call Andrina Smith, HR Director on 01303 858227 for an informal discussion.

Alternatively, contact Gemma Candy, HR Assistant straight away for an application pack on either 01303 858271, 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answer phone) or email humanresources@southkent.ac.uk

Applications are welcome from individuals seeking either a permanent post or who are interested in a fixed-term appointment of 18 months.

The closing date for receipt of all completed application forms is Thursday 28th February 2008.

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all employees to share this commitment.

Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.

South Kent College
ASHFORD • DOVER • FOLKESTONE

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

Cultural & Leisure Services Manager

£34,047 - £39,150 + Essential User Car Allowance

Planning & Communities

"Improving opportunities for sport, leisure and culture" is one of the strategic objectives of Shepway District Council.

An exciting opportunity has arisen to lead the Culture & Leisure Services Team and deliver a range of projects to meet this objective.

Responsible for Sports Development, Arts Development, Youth Engagement, the Hawkinge Youth Work Team and Hythe Swimming Pool, the Cultural & Leisure Services Manager will lead a dedicated team and provide direction on a variety of projects and strategies, working closely with a range of partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

With 27 miles of coastline, the unique character of Romney Marsh, Cinque Port of Hythe, the Elham Valley and the main town of Folkestone which is undergoing significant regeneration, there is an array of exciting opportunities for an experienced leisure/culture professional to bring about significant change.

Applicants should be educated to degree level in a relevant discipline and have substantial experience in managing budgets, multi-disciplinary teams, projects and the partnership process. With the established Creative Quarter and new Folkestone Triennial public art project, there is a strong emphasis on supporting art and creativity, whilst leading on developing a new Sport & Leisure Partnership, securing new sports facilities and ensuring there are significant opportunities to enable the young people of Shepway to reach their full potential.

If you have a background in any of these areas, or local government procedures then please contact Dave Shore, Community Regeneration Manager on 01303 853459 or dave.shore@shepway.gov.uk for an informal discussion.

The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced disclosure check through the Criminal Records Bureau.

For an application form, either download at www.shepway.gov.uk or email jobs@shepway.gov.uk alternatively call our 24 hour answerphone service on 01303 853481.

The closing date for applications is Friday 7 March 2008.

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council www.shepway.gov.uk

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Kent County Council

Early Years Advisory Teacher

Starting salary £29,190, with progression through contribution related pay to £34,507 per annum

Clover House, Whitstable

Canterbury City and County Cluster work with the private and voluntary sector offering advice, challenge and support for Early Years settings.

You must be a qualified teacher with substantial Early Years experience with an excellent understanding and working knowledge of the Foundation Stage Curriculum and the needs of young children and their families. You must be able to demonstrate the ability to understand and work with a wide range of providers and external agencies.

Excellent interpersonal and communication skills are therefore essential.

Knowledge of additional and special education needs would be advantageous.

You must be prepared to travel around Canterbury City and the surrounding rural areas and beyond for training.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure application to the Criminal Records Bureau.
Ref: CFE/08/0044

Closing date: midday, 28th February 2008.

Development Officer

Starting salary £25,521, with progression through contribution related pay to £29,190 per annum

Shepway Centre, Maidstone

We have two exciting opportunities for you to join our team. One post is permanent covering the West Kent area. The second post is temporary until March 2009 and will co-ordinate our project with Extended Services to develop parent forums across Kent.

We believe that good communication between all those involved in a child's education is key to good relationships which will help children achieve.

With exceptional communication skills, you will be committed to promoting good communication between parents, schools and agencies and increasing parental involvement.

You will need excellent oral and written communication skills, experience of developing partnerships with a wide range of people and of working with parents, project management skills and knowledge of AEN and SEN processes.

Supervision will be provided.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.
Ref: CFE/08/0055

Closing date: midday, 3rd March 2008.

Senior Partnership Officer (Naturally Active)

Starting salary £22,268, with progression through contribution related pay to £25,521 per annum

Fixed Term Contract to November 2010

Dartford

Following recent success in securing three years funding from Big Lottery, the North West Kent Countryside Partnership is recruiting a Senior Partnership Officer to deliver the Naturally Active programme.

Naturally Active is a ground-breaking project aimed at addressing healthcare issues through a stimulating programme of events, using the countryside as a focus for delivery. You will be working with healthcare professionals, community leaders, and commercial providers to engage people in a range of activities that will benefit their health and wellbeing.

You will be a highly motivated individual capable of acting on your own initiative and generating enthusiasm in others. Ideally, you will have experience in both countryside and healthcare but, more importantly, you will be a successful project manager, a strong communicator, and able to work sensitively at both a strategic and personal level.

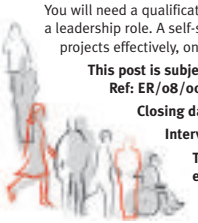
You will need a qualification in a health, or environment, related discipline and experience in a leadership role. A self-starter, with a can-do approach, you will be able to manage and develop projects effectively, on budget and on time.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.
Ref: ER/08/0006

Closing date: midday, 3 March 2008.

Interview date: 14 March 2008.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the appropriate reference.



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www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

THRESHOLD LEARNING CENTRES

F/T Lead Tutor, Dover, Alternative Curriculum

Delivering literacy, numeracy, PSHE & life skills to students, working towards a BTEC qualification.

A confident, organised & empathic approach, good interpersonal skills & experience with teenagers essential. Full training provided, so no formal qualifications required but applicants must possess a good level of education.

Starting salary £8.17 per hour. Successful applicant must undergo an enhanced CRB check.

Please send CVs by email to threshold.maid@btconnect.com or call 01622 685635

www.thresholdlearningcentres.co.uk

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Medway Council
Serving You

All Saints Sure Start Children's Centre has the following vacancies based at our centre in Magpie Hall Road, Chatham.

Building Operations Manager Ref: CS0899S

Grade C2. Salary £18,907 – £25,320

37 hours per week.

With responsibility for everything from health, safety and security to repairs, maintenance and cleaning – you will ensure that our building and grounds are a safe and pleasant place for our staff and the 700+ visitors that use the centre every week. With a team of administrative staff and caretakers, you will maintain the high quality of support services that everyone has come to expect at our busy centre. Previous experience of managing buildings and staff is essential, as is a flexible and innovative style.

Catering Assistant – Healthy Eating Community Café Ref: CS0900S

Grade D1. Salary £12,291 – £15,842
37 hours per week.

You will be involved with the day-to-day running of the café, including preparing and cooking food, stock control and serving. Other duties will include handling cash and cleaning the café and kitchen areas. You will also help provide meals to our on-site, full day-care facility and prepare and deliver refreshment orders to the rest of the centre. Previous experience of working in catering required.

Administrative Assistant Ref: CS0901S

Grade D1. Salary £12,291 – £15,842
37 hours per week.

As part of a small and busy administrative team, you will undertake varied duties to support staff in the centre. These will range from reception work and taking notes at meetings to filing and maintaining office systems. Good customer service skills and administrative experience are essential.

Any offer of appointment will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced disclosure.

For more information on any of these posts, please contact the centre on 01634 338833.

Closing date for all applications is Friday, 7 March 2008.
Interviews are likely to take place at the beginning of April.

All posts will be open to part-time and job share applicants unless designated as an exception.

To apply

visit **www.medway.gov.uk**

call **01634 333333** Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 1pm.
01634 332843 24-hour answerphone.

email **jobs@medway.gov.uk** quoting the appropriate reference.

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Canterbury Christ Church University
www.canterbury.ac.uk

Canterbury Christ Church University is the largest centre of higher education in Kent for the public services - notably teacher training, policing, health and social care - and is a significant provider of programmes in a wide range of academic and professional areas.

CANTERBURY CAMPUS

PLANNING OFFICE

Senior Planning Officer

£41,545 to £44,074 per annum

This post offers an exciting opportunity to contribute to the ongoing development of the University Planning Office and related planning processes.

You will be a graduate, preferably with a relevant qualification in statistics and/or a computer-related subject and have experience of preparing and analysing statistical reports.

You will have experience of working in a planning environment in Higher Education (HE) and have advanced data interpretation, analysis and reporting skills. Experience of using and analysing statistical returns in HE such as the HESES and HESA returns would be advantageous.

You will be a self-starter, able to work on your own initiative, with excellent attention to detail and an ability to meet tight deadlines.

Application forms and further details are available from www.canterbury.ac.uk. Alternatively please call 01227 782475 (answerphone) or e-mail hr@canterbury.ac.uk quoting reference PLAN/APA/77. No agencies.

Closing date: 29 February 2008.

Swale Borough Council
North Kent Coast

Housing Officer (Advice and Prevention)

37 hours per week
Up to £24,957
Three Year Fixed Term Contract

A vacancy has arisen in the Housing Options Team. We require a full-time Housing Officer to work as part of a team delivering our statutory duty under the Homelessness Act 2002.

We are looking for an experienced and dynamic individual who will provide advice services and aim to prevent homelessness amongst applicants. You will provide comprehensive housing advice and assistance to a range of clients who present as homeless to the local authority. You will be responsible for providing advice on setting up a tenancy with Landlords and tenants, operating advice surgeries and training other organisations in relation to housing advice and preventing homelessness. In addition you will liaise with other agencies, homeless, lettings and supported housing officers with regard to applicants in housing need.

You will have:

- 2-3 years' experience of working in a housing related organisation and dealing with people with multiple support needs
- At least 1 year's experience of working with highly vulnerable and/or potentially violent individuals
- A working knowledge of the Homelessness Legislation and be conversant with Welfare Benefits
- Ability to act quickly and accurately in dealing with crises and calming potentially explosive situations
- Ability to work under pressure as part of a team and ensure deadlines are met
- A housing qualification or similar, to a minimum of HNC level is preferred, however experience and approach are more important, as professional qualification training is available if necessary.

In addition to salary, we can offer you a generous annual leave allowance, paid bank holidays, flexi-time and the Local Government final salary pension scheme.

For further information and an application form contact Human Resources, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. Telephone Sittingbourne (01795) 417414 (24 hour voice mail) quoting reference number 303HO4.

E-Mail: hr@swale.gov.uk Website: http://jobs.swale.gov.uk

Closing Date: 7 March 2008.
Interviews are expected to be held w/c 31 March 2008.

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Medway Council
Serving You

Education Liaison Officer – Medway YOT Ref: CS0903S

Grade B1. Salary £22,122 – £28,919 plus essential car user allowance.
37 hours per week.

Based at the Adolescent Resource Centre, Chatham, Medway Youth Offending Team are seeking to appoint a full-time education liaison officer to work with young people known to the team on education, inclusion and related matters.

We require a resourceful, knowledgeable and proactive person with excellent communication skills to work on an operational level with young people and parents/guardians and also negotiate on a strategic level. You will liaise directly with schools, pupil referral units and related departments in Medway's Children's Services to ensure all young people of statutory school age, who are known to YOT and are experiencing school-related problems, receive appropriate provision and support. The role is a specialist post in the team and the successful candidate will act as a source of advice for colleagues on all education, training, admissions and placement matters, primarily for pupils of statutory school age. This post reports directly to the team's Learning and Skills Development Manager.

Any offer of appointment will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced disclosure.

For further information or an informal discussion, please contact Mark Walsh on 01634 336236 or 07789 988165 (mobile).

Closing date: 14 March, 2008.

All posts will be open to part-time and job share applicants unless designated as an exception.

To apply

visit **www.medway.gov.uk**

call **01634 333333**
Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 1pm.
01634 332843 24-hour answerphone.

email **jobs@medway.gov.uk**
quoting the reference.

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Cecil Road Primary and Nursery School

Cecil Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7BT
Tel: 01474 534544 headteacher@cecil-road.kent.sch.uk

Investors in People Healthy Schools
Headtecher: Mr Andrew Sparks

Deputy Head L4-10

(Salary negotiable)

A wonderful opportunity to join a very successful school. We are a popular oversubscribed two-form entry school. Ofsted judged the school to be outstanding/very good in all areas and, due to the retirement of the present postholder, the Governors will be appointing a new Deputy Head for September 2008.

The new Deputy should:

- Have strong leadership and management skills, which will enable us to move forward, combining excellence and enjoyment within the curriculum;
- Be an exemplary classroom teacher who has a commitment towards collaboration, team-working and inclusion;
- Be able to manage change and inspire others;
- Have excellent communication, interpersonal and organisational skills;
- Have expertise in assessment and experience of data management as a tool for raising standards;
- Have a proven track record of ICT, management skills and financial experience would be an advantage.

For further information and details please contact the Headteacher.
Visits welcomed.
Please visit our website, www.cecil-road.kent.sch.uk
Closing date: 14 March
Interviews: 25/26 March

This is the house you helped Jack draw!

Working as part of a team at one of several centres throughout the Borough, for five mornings a week, you will be helping to keep children between 5 & 11 years busy and interested through play, sport and creativity. **Opportunities are also available for staff wishing to work direct with children with additional needs**.

We are looking for out-going staff with enthusiasm and a sense of responsibility. All candidates must be over **18 as at 28th July 2008**. A recognised childcare qualification is an advantage but not essential. We offer competitive rates of pay and a real opportunity to be part of a highly respected community based playscheme.

So, if you are wanting to work during the summer (28th July to 22nd August) and would be available from 8.30am to 1.30pm, Monday to Friday, phone

01732 876011 (24 hour answerphone) for an application pack.

WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
Candidates should be aware that references and Criminal Records Bureau checks will be undertaken.

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Canterbury Christ Church University
www.canterbury.ac.uk

Canterbury Christ Church University is the largest centre of higher education in Kent for the public services - notably teacher training, policing, health and social care - and is a significant provider of programmes in a wide range of academic and professional areas.

CANTERBURY CAMPUS

NURSING & APPLIED CLINICAL STUDIES

Principal Lecturer - Research, Scholarship & Knowledge Transfer

£41,545 to £44,074 per annum

We are a dynamic department with big aspirations looking to appoint a Principal Lecturer to coordinate the ongoing development of research capacity and knowledge transfer activities and take a lead role in mentoring staff research capability.

With a good understanding of the health and social care sector, you will have experience of managing and delivering funded research projects, a strong personal record of research, possess excellent analytical and people management skills, as well as a commitment to collaborative and interdisciplinary working. We welcome applications from a broad range of disciplines including health and social care, social sciences, education, business and health services research. A doctoral qualification is essential. This is an excellent opportunity to help shape an emerging area of research growth and would suit an ambitious individual keen to join a dynamic and forward thinking organisation.

For informal enquiries please contact Carrie Sanders, Head of Department on +44 (0)1227 782649 or e-mail carolyn.sanders@canterbury.ac.uk
Ref: PL/NAC/77.

Interview date: 10 April 2008.

REGISTRY

Graduation & Awards Manager

£25,134 to £26,666 per annum

You will be responsible for the planning and execution of graduation and award ceremonies across the University. This involves the preparation and delivery of seven Cathedral based ceremonies, six in Canterbury and one in Rochester, as well as a number of campus-based events. Cathedral ceremonies are highly complex events involving up to 1,500 dignitaries, staff, students and guests and therefore require meticulous planning.

Qualified to first degree or equivalent, you will possess experience of organising large public events and administration within an HE/FE environment. Proven interpersonal skills, clear and concise oral/written communication skills, report writing skills, a commitment to accuracy and the ability to work effectively under pressure whilst remaining calm are all essential to the role. **Ref: GAM/REG/77.**

CONFERENCE SERVICES

Temporary Conference Services Supervisor

(1 May 2008 to 30 September 2008)
£15, 300 per annum

The Department is responsible for the provision and marketing of conference and event facilities at the North Holmes Campus and at St Martin's Priory in Canterbury.

You will join this busy team and assist the Conference Co-ordinator with the co-ordination of all bookings during the summer vacation for residential conferences, group bookings, language schools, individual lets and summer schools as well as bookings of university meetings and seminars.

As an enthusiastic and energetic team player you will also need to have experience of working in the conference and hospitality industry and be willing to contribute to the development of departments services within and outside the University. **Ref: CSS1/HOS/77.**

CAMPUS CATERING SERVICES

Breakfast Chef (25 hours)

(Fixed term until 31 July 2008)
£13,739 pro-rata per annum

You will be a Chef who can demonstrate the ability to produce breakfast daily for the University's students, staff and visitors.

You will hold the City & Guilds 706/1/2 or NVQ Level 2/3 in Food Preparation and Cooking and hold a current Certificate in Food Hygiene (awarded in last 2 years). Hours are mainly 7 am to 12 pm Monday to Friday but with rostered weekend working during the summer conference season of July, August and September
Ref: BC/CAT/77.

HALL PLACE ENTERPRISE CENTRE, HARBLEDOWN

General Assistants (Two Posts)

(37 hours & 20 hours)
£12,041 to £13,368 per annum (pro-rata if part-time)

Working directly for the Café Supervisor these are key support posts providing an excellent customer focused catering service in our facility located in Harbledown.

You will have worked in a previous catering environment and be keen to be part of close working team who strive to deliver an excellent catering service. You will be conscientious and demonstrate an enthusiasm for working in a busy catering environment. You will need to be flexible in your working hours and be able to work the occasional Saturdays and evenings with due notice.
Ref: GA3/CAT/77.

CANTERBURY & MEDWAY CAMPUS

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS -

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Diagnostic Radiography

£27,466 to £40,335 per annum

We are looking for a radiographer to join our enthusiastic team in delivering our programmes on our Medway and Canterbury campuses. Radiography here has national and international recognition for clinical reporting, a strong reputation for medical imaging, a building expertise in forensic radiography and a strong record in interprofessional education.

You will be an HPC-registered radiographer with a relevant degree and be interested in extending your professional profile. The post may be part or full time.

For informal discussion, please contact Lee Bolton, Radiography Professional Lead on 01227 767700 ext 3069 or lee.bolton@canterbury.ac.uk
Ref: RAD6/AHP/77.

Closing date: 17 March 2008.

Application forms and further details are available from www.canterbury.ac.uk. Alternatively please call 01227 782475 (answerphone) or e-mail hr@canterbury.ac.uk quoting appropriate reference. No agencies.

Closing date unless stated 14 March 2008.

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11. Should the rate for advertisements be altered, the price for remaining insertions shall be revised accordingly.
12. a) All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to the Publishers shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
    b) In the event that payment is not received by the Publishers by the due date, the Publisher shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract.
    c) In the event that payment is not received by the Publishers by the due date the Publisher reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
    d) Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of the Publisher (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
    e) The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by the Publisher in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
    f) Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
13. Any discount which the Publisher may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
14. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
15. All private advertisement and certain categories as laid down by the Publisher must be prepaid.
16. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify both the publisher and the Group in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the Publisher or any of the companies within the Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of the advertisement.
17. Order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
18. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the Publishers belong to the publishers. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the publishers consent.

Effective from July 2007

Apple Barn, Hythe Road,
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
Tel 01303 817040 Fax 01303 817004
Email: info@kosmedia.co.uk

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Civil Enforcement Officer - Parking

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Salary up to £18063 pa
Plus enhanced payments for working on Sundays/Public Holidays

We have a vacancy in our Parking Services team for a fit, reliable, energetic person who enjoys the outdoor life and has the ability to deal tactfully with the public, sometimes in challenging situations.

You will help in the important traffic management task of enforcing the Council's waiting and parking restrictions, issuing Penalty Charge Notices. Most importantly you will represent the Council in a positive and helpful manner by answering enquiries and providing assistance for visitors and residents of Ashford.

You will receive comprehensive training in all aspects of the job, leading to a nationally recognised qualification.

This role involves working shifts and it is a requirement of the job to have a full clean driving licence.

For an application form and further details, please contact: Personnel and Development, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL
or e-mail recruitment@ashford.gov.uk
or you can download details form the jobs page of our website quoting reference no 5153
Closing date:
Monday 10th March 2008

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Good Schools Guide: *Ashford is set to become a top-notch co-ed school catering for that neglected breed, ordinary children, as well as for the higher flier*

ASHFORD
700 boys and girls aged 3-18;
senior school of 370 pupils with 120+ boarders

SCIENCE TECHNICIAN & DEMONSTRATOR
June 2008

This is an exciting opportunity for an energetic and capable person to join our successful Science Department of eight specialist teachers and three technicians, taking specific responsibility for Physics. Applications are welcomed from candidates with a science or engineering background; training will be provided. The role of Senior Technician may be available for suitably qualified candidates.

Ashford School completes its transition to full coeducation in 2009 when boys move into Year 11; the Sixth Form welcomed boys in 2007; day and boarding (no Saturday lessons); good facilities and resources, with interactive whiteboards in every classroom. Academic standards are high and staff are highly committed to the school and its pupils.

For an application form and further information, please contact: Mrs Anne Rylands, Head's PA, Ashford School, East Hill, Ashford, Kent TN24 8PB. Tel: 01233 739032
email: rylandsa@ashfordschool.co.uk www.ashfordschool.co.uk
Closing date for receipt of applications: **Friday 29 February 2008**

1883 - 2008
United Church Schools Trust
The best in everyone

Ashford School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening, including checks with past employers and the CRB. Ashford School is a member of The United Church Schools Trust. Registered Charity No. 1016358

MEDWAY TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

Medway Serving You

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Teacher

Brompton Westbrook
Foundation
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required from: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 3 March 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Claire Knight
Brompton Westbrook
Kings Bastion, Brompton
Gillingham
Kent ME7 5DQ
Telephone - (01634) 844152
Email heyej002@medway.org.uk

Skinner Street Primary School
Year 5
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Temporary
Term of Contract: Maternity Cover
Required From: 21 April 2008
Closing date: 29 February 2008
To apply/more information
School Office
Skinner Street Primary School
Skinner Street
Gillingham
Kent ME7 1LG
Telephone - (01634) 850213
Email
office@skinnerst.medway.sch.uk

Cliffe Woods Primary School
KS 2 Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 10 March 2008
To apply/more information
Mr Tim Watson
Cliffe Woods Primary School
View Road, Cliffe Woods
Rochester
Kent ME3 8UJ
Telephone - (01634) 220822
Email headteacher@
cliffewoods.medway.sch.uk

SEN

Teacher

Elaine Primary (Chalklands Opportunity Centre)
Salary: MPS/UPS + 2 SEN allowance
Part time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 29 March 2008
To apply/more information
Lynne Garnham, Headteacher
Elaine Primary School
Elaine Avenue, Strood
Rochester
Kent ME2 2YN
Telephone - (01634) 718057
Fax - 01634 290191
Email headteacher@
elaine.medway.sch.uk

Deputy Headteacher

Fairview Community Primary
Salary: LS 10 - 14 £43656-£48138
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 14 March 2008
To apply/more information
Fairview Community Primary School
Debbie Willis, Headteacher
Drewery Drive, Wigmore
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0NU
Telephone - (01634) 338710
Email headteacher@
fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Teacher

Sir Joseph Williamson Mathematical School
History Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and fixed term
Contract: 2 Terms
Required From: 21 April 2008
To apply/more information
Ms Jacqueline Harrison
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road
Rochester
Kent ME1 3EL
Telephone - (01634) 844008
E-mail harrisonj@
sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

Chatham South
English Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Maureen Chipperfield
Chatham South
Letchworth Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME4 6NT
Telephone - (01634) 404277
Email chipm002@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo
Teacher of English
Job Ref: Eteach/kmc/010208/eng
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required from: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Kirsty Cruttenden
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo
Teacher of Geography
Job Ref: Eteach/kmc/geog/010208
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required from: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Kirsty Cruttenden
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo
Teacher of ICT
Eteach/kmc/ICT
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required from: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Kirsty Cruttenden
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo
Teacher of Maths
Eteach/kmc/010208/Maths
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required from: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Kirsty Cruttenden
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo
Teacher of Science
Eteach/kmc/sci/010208
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required from: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Kirsty Cruttenden
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo
Teacher of English and Media
Eteach/010208/kmc/Media&Eng
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required from: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Kirsty Cruttenden
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo
Teacher of Business Studies
Eteach/kmc/business/010208
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required from: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Kirsty Cruttenden
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo
Teacher of Art
Eteach//kmc/010208/art
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required from: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Kirsty Cruttenden
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
Main Road, Hoo
Rochester
Kent ME3 9HH
Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

The Thomas Aveling School
English Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 21 April 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Richard Hart, Headteacher
The Thomas Aveling School
Arethusa Road
Rochester
Kent ME1 2UW
Telephone - (01634) 844809
Email office@thomasaveling.co.uk

The Thomas Aveling School
Teacher of Physical Education (Female)
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Richard Hart, Headteacher
The Thomas Aveling School
Arethusa Road
Rochester
Kent ME1 2UW
Telephone - (01634) 844809
Email office@thomasaveling.co.uk

Chatham Grammar School for Girls
RE Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 March 2008
To apply/more information:
Emma Chilmaid
Chatham Grammar School for Girls
Rainham Road
Chatham
Kent ME5 7EH
Telephone - (01634) 851262
Fax - 01634 571928
Email chile001@medway.org.uk

Chatham Grammar School for Girls
Teacher of Latin
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 14 March 2008
To apply/more information
Emma Chilmaid
Chatham Grammar School for Girls
Rainham Road
Chatham
Kent ME5 7EH
Telephone - (01634) 851262
Fax - 01634 571928
Email chile001@medway.org.uk

New Brompton College
English Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 5 March 2008
To apply/more information
Sue Moss
Business Manager
New Brompton College
Marlborough Road
Gillingham
Kent ME7 5HT
Telephone - (01634) 852341
Fax - 01634 853574
Email
suemoss@nbc.medway.sch.uk

New Brompton College
Science Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS + £3000 pa for 3 years
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 5 March 2008
To apply/more information
Sue Moss, Business Manager
New Brompton College
Marlborough Road
Gillingham
Kent ME7 5HT
Telephone - (01634) 852341
Fax - 01634 853574
Email
suemoss@nbc.medway.sch.uk

Graduate Teacher Programme

Sir Joseph Williamson
Trainee Teacher
Full Time and Fixed Term
Contract: 1 Year
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 10 March
To apply/more information
Ms Jacqueline Harrison
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road
Rochester
Kent ME1 3EL
Telephone - (01634) 844008
E-mail harrisonj@
sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

Head of Department

Chatham South
Head of ICT
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR c
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Maureen Chipperfield
Chatham South
Letchworth Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME4 6NT
Telephone - (01634) 404277
Email chipm002@medway.org.uk

Greenacre School
Subject Leader in English
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 1b (£9,981)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 10 March 2008
To apply/more information
Mr A J Reese, Headteacher
Greenacre School
(A Specialist Sports College)
Bradfields Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861593
Fax - 01634 869246
Email
office@greenacre.medway.sch.uk

Head of Year

The Robert Napier
Head of Sixth Form
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 1d (£6829)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 26 February 2008
To apply/more information
Mr Paul Jackson, Deputy Head
The Robert Napier School
Third Avenue
Gillingham
Kent ME7 2LX
Telephone - (01634) 851157

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Teacher

Rivermead
Teacher of General Subjects
Salary: MPS/UPS + SEN Allowance £1818
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 14 March 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Karen Watkin, Office Manager
Rivermead, Forge Lane
Gillingham
Kent ME7 1UG
Telephone - (01634) 338348
Email
office@rivermead.medway.sch.uk

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Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check

Highways - Borough of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FORGE LANE, ASHFORD)
(ONE WAY STREET) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order that vehicles may only proceed on the length of road specified in Column 1 of the Schedule hereto otherwise than in the direction specified in Column 2 of that Schedule on or after 25th February 2008 for an estimated period of 30 weeks or until such works are complete, at such times and to such extent as shall be indicated by traffic signs.

Schedule
(Temporary One Way Street)

Column 1 Affected length of road	Column 2 Permitted direction for traffic
Forge Lane, Ashford From its junction with New Street to its junction with Norwood Gardens	North-east to South-west

Highways - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS WHITSTABLE)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because highway repairs and utility connection works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Roads Whitstable, as desribed in column 1 of the schedule to this order on or after 10 March 2008 for an estimated period of 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for each road descibed in column 1 of the schedule to this order is described in column 3 of that schedule.

The Schedule

Specified Road	length of road affected	alternative routes
Harbour Street, Whitstable.	From its junction with Woodlawn Street to its junction with Albert Street.	Harbour Street, Cromwell Road, Oxford Street and High Street.
Harbour Street, Whitstable.	Suspension of one way traffic between Albert Street and High Street.	Not applicable.
Harbour Street, Whitstable.	Suspension of No entry order at	Not applicable.
Cromwell Road, Whitstable.	From its junction with Oxford Street for a distance of approximately 30 metres in a North easterly direction only.	Oxford Street, High Street, Horsebridge Road, Sea Street, Harbour Street and Cromwell Road.

This Order will come into force on Monday 10 March 2008, and will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a maximum period of eighteen months or until the works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

Highways - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(DEAL ROAD NORTHBOURNE)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because new electrical supply works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Deal Road Northbourne from its junction with Broad Lane to its junction with The Street on or after 16 March 2008 for an estimated period of 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Broad Lane, Northbourne Lane and Mill Lane.

Highways - Borough of Gravesham

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE STREET, MEOPHAM AND ELMSFIELD CLOSE, GRAVESEND
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Street, Meopham between Wrotham Road and Whitehill Road and Elmsfield Close, Gravesend.

The Order will become effective on 10th March 2008, for a period of 2weeks, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routes described above will be via:

The Street: - Foxendown Lane, Camer park Road, Green Lane and Wrotham Road.

There is no alternative route for Elmfield Close, however, access will be maintained to properties affected as much as possible.

The purpose of the closures is to facilitate the preparation for, and the undertaking of, Micro Asphalt Surfacing.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
PARK PALE LANE, HIGHAM (CYCLEWAY)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by all traffic on Park Pale Lane Cycleway for its entire length.

The Order will become effective on 25th February 2008, for a period of 2 months, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Crutches Lane, Cycleway alongside A2 Watling Street.

The purpose of the closures is to facilitate the reconstruction and resurfacing of the cycleway.

Highways - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BRENCHLEY ROAD, MAIDSTONE)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Brenchley Road, Maidstone between Old Tovil Road and Courtenay Road on or after Monday 10th March 2008 for a period of up to 4 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for southbound traffic via Old Tovil Road, Quarry Road, Brenchley Road and for northbound traffic vice versa.

Kier Partnership Homes apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for a drainage connection. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Bob Rees on 07966 623789.

(Notice of the intention to make a Traffic Order)

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
WHEELER STREET, MAIDSTONE
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14
Temporary Prohibition of Traffic Order

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, Kent County Council intends to make an Order vehicular traffic travelling on the routes described in column1 and 2 of the Schedule below. It is anticipated that each affected route will be closed for as short a period of time as possible and between the hours indicated in column 4 or until completion of works or for a maximum period of eighteen months. The alternative routes for diverted traffic are listed in column 3. This Order will come into force on or after Monday 3rd March 2008

SCHEDULE 1

1. Specified Road	2. Length of Affected Road	3. Diversion Route	4.
U2905 Wheeler Street	From its junction with Holland Road to its junction with Union Street	B2012 Holland Road, A249 Sittingbourne Road, U2872 Union Street	3 Weeks Monday to Friday only

The Order will only be effective when the appropriate signs are displayed. Advance signing of the intended closure date will be displayed on the roads due for closure.

Order to be made with the approval of Director of Environment & Regeneration, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone.

Highways - District of Sevenoaks

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
SMITHS LANE, CROCKHAM HILL
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Smiths Lane, Crockham Hill between Oakdale Lane and B269 Kent Hatch Road.

The Order will become effective on 10th March 2008, for a period of 1 week, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

There is no safe alternative route for the route described above. There will be consideration given to residents affected by the works.

The purpose of the closures is to facilitate the installation of Traffic Calming Measures.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
SCHOOL LANE AND BULL HILL
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on School Lane at its junction with Forge Lane and Bull Hill at its junction with Forge Lane and Lombard Street.

The Order will become effective on 10th March 2008, for a period of 6 weeks, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routes described above will be via:

School Lane – Churchill Road
Bull Hill – Horton Road and Jacobs Lane
The purpose of the closures is to facilitate Gas Main connection works to be undertaken by Southern Gas Networks.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
HORTON ROAD, HORTON KIRBY
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Horton Road, Horton Kirby between Station Road and New Road (1), between New Road and East Hill (2) and then between East Hill and Devon Road (3). These sections will be closed individually not together.

The Order will become effective on 10th March 2008, for a period of 6 weeks, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routes described above will be via:

(1) Station Road, Main Road, Cedar Drive, Devon Road, Holmesdale Road.

(2) New Road, East Hill.

(3) Holmesdale Road, Paddock Close, East Hill.

The purpose of the closures is to facilitate Section 278 Highway works to be undertaken.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
BEECHMONT ROAD, SEVENOAKS
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Beechmont Road, Sevenoaks between Brattlewood and Weald Road.

The Order will become effective on 10th March 2008, for a period of 3 weeks, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Gracious Lane and Weald Road.

The purpose of the closures is to facilitate Water Main renewal works to be undertaken by South East Water.

Highways - District of Shepway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(WALNER LANE NEW ROMNEY)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because new gas main and service connection works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Walner Lane New Romney from its junction with Fairfield Road to its junction with Rolfe Lane on or after 10 March 2008 for an estimated period of 4 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Rolfe Lane, Craythorne Lane and Fairfield Road.

Highways - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(THANET ROAD, BROADSTAIRS)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because new electrical supply works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Thanet Road, Broadstairs from its junction with Albion Street to its junction with Prospect Road on or after 26 February 2008 for an estimated period of 7 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via High Street, Belmont Road, Wardour Close, Prospect Road, Thanet Road.

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
SWAN STREET, WEST MALLING
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Swan Street, West Malling between Lavenders Road and High Street.

The Order will become effective on 25th February 2008, with works taking place on 2nd March 2008 for a period of 1 day, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Town Hill, A20 London Road, Winterfield Lane, Lucks Hill.

The purpose of the closures is to facilitate the connection to utility services of a new property.

For further information, please contact Geoff Harrison-Mee, Director for Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
NIZELS LANE, HILDENBOROUGH
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by all vehicular traffic on Nizels Lane, Hildenborough for its entire length.

The Order will become effective on 25th February 2008, for a period of 4 weeks, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: B245 London Road, Watts Cross Road and Philpots Lane.

The purpose of the closures is to facilitate Carriageway Haunching Works by Kent Highway Services.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
40MPH SPEED LIMITS SNODLAND AND AYLESFORD
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting all vehicular traffic from travelling at speeds in excess of 40 mph on the roads as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 25th February 2008, for up to ten 24hr periods in the next nine months, or, until completion of the planned works. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the closures is to provide a safe working environment for staff erecting new VMS signage.

Schedule 1.

Road Name	Extent
A228 Snodland Bypass	From LaFarge Roundabout to Ham Hill Roundabout
A229 Bluebell Hill	From Maidstone bound on slip from Lord Lees Gyratory system to the Running Horse Roundabout

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
TONBRIDGE & MALLING MICRO-ASPHALT
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS)
ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 10th March 2008, for periods as noted in schedule 1, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routes described will be as noted in Schedule 1.

The purpose of the closures is to facilitate the preparation for, and the undertaking of, Micro Asphalt Surfacing.

Schedule 1

Road Name	Location	Length of Closure	Diversion
East Street (South), Addington	From Trottiscliffe Road to end	3 days	No discernable diversion route
Millhouse Lane, Addington	From Trottiscliffe Road to end	3 days	No discernable diversion route
Rectory Lane (South) Leybourne	From London Road to end	3 days	No discernable diversion route
Butchers Lane Mereworth	From The Street to upper part of Butchers Lane	4 weeks for patching and 5 days for surfacing	Malling Road Beech Road, Seven Mile Lane, The Street
Water Lane, West Malling	From Lavenders Road to High Street	3 weeks for patching works and 3 days for surfacing	Lavenders Road, Swan Street and High Street

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
HIGH STREET, WOULDHAM
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2008
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street Wouldham between Portland Road and Ferry Lane.

The Order will become effective on 10th March 2008, for a period of 1 week, or, until completion of the planned works. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routes described above will be via: School Lane, Pilgrims Way and Knole Road

The purpose of the closures is to facilitate drainage repair works by Kent Highway Services.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, WEST MALLING)
(WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2008
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which prohibits any vehicle exceeding the gross laden weight of 7.5 tonnes to proceed on Alma Road, Epsom Close, Ewell Avenue, Fartherwell Avenue, Fartherwell Road, Norman Road, Offham Road, Sandown Road, Sandy Lane, Stanford Road and Woodland Close, West Malling, except for access.

A copy of the Order will come into operation on Monday 3rd March, 2008 an explanatory statement and a map showing the area affected may be inspected during normal office hours at the West Kent Divisional Office, Joynes House, New Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 0AT and the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Office, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling Kent, ME19 4LZ.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

For further information, please contact Geoff Harrison-Mee, Director for Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

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The Insolvency Act 1986
LARGE PORTION LTD
Company Number: 04880131
LARGE PORTION GLOBAL LTD
Company Number: 05376076
(Both In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Marc Justin Landsman of Carmichael & Co, Ford Campbell Business Centre, New Bailey Street, Manchester, M3 5ER was appointed Liquidator of the above named Companies on the 15th February 2008 by the Members and Creditors.
M Landsman, Liquidator
Dated: 18th February 2008

RED LEADER (2000) LIMITED
Company No: 04115920

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above-named Company will be held at at 3.00 pm on 28 February 2008 at 228 Shoreditch High Street, London, E1 6JP, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act. A list of names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at 141 Parrock Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1EY, on 26 and 27 February 2008, the two business days before the date of the meeting.
Dated: 18 February 2008
By Order of the Board
David Roger Warner, Director

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS.

An application has been made by Mr Stephen Gay of 48 Manor Road, Deal to Kent County Council, to grant an approval for a ceremony at this premise.

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below between the hours of 9am and 5pm. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper.

Objections should be sent to the following address
Martin Alford, Head of Registration
Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made by Mrs Anne Child – 6 The Maples, New Barn, Longfield to Kent County Council, to grant an approval for a ceremony at this premise.

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below between the hours of 9am and 5pm. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper.

Objections should be sent to the following address
Martin Alford, Head of Registration,
Invicta House, Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XX

EVOKE 2K LIMITED
(Company Number 05471733)

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of Moore Stephens LLP, Victory House, Admiralty Place, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4QU, on Thursday 28 February 2008, at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act.
Resolutions to be taken at the Meeting may include a Resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated, and the Meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the Meeting.
Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at Victory House, Admiralty Place, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4QU not later than 12.00 noon on the business day preceding the meeting.
For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge a statement at Victory House, Admiralty Place, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4QU before the meeting, giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed.
Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Victory House, Admiralty Place, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4QU, between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.
Dated: 31 January 2008
Vanessa Marie Arnett, Director

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000
PETITIONS FOR ELECTED MAYORAL REFERENDUMS

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Referendums) (Petitions & Directions) Regulations 2000 (as amended), I am giving notice that the number equal to 5 per cent of the number of local government electors shown in the electoral register for the authority's area as of 16th February 2008 is :-

4357 electors

The number published above shall be used for verification purposes in relation to any petition presented to the authority in the period of 12 months beginning with 1st April 2008.[*]
DAVID HUGHES
Proper Officer
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4LZ
16th February 2008
[*] Where the number published in any year is less than the number published in the preceding year, the number to be used for verification purposes, in relation to any petition presented to the authority in the period beginning on the date of publication of the lesser number and ending immediately before 1st April in that year, shall be that lesser number.

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BlueMotion VW's green machine

OPINION is divided on the best future option for greener motoring.

It could be hydrogen cells, biofuels, hybrids or electric, but while the candidates are assessed, Volkswagen leads the field in 'greening' its existing car ranges now – even if these ultra-eco models are, confusingly, labelled 'BlueMotion'.

I was highly impressed with the debut version, based on the Polo supermini – see our online report under 'cars/transport' at www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

Encouraged by demand for that clever little car, the German car giant is bringing in BlueMotion versions of bigger cars in time for the new '08 registration plate, including its UK top-10 best-seller, the Golf hatchback.

In effect, BlueMotion becomes a sub-brand representing the most efficient model in each VW car line-up, using a package of revised aerodynamics, optimised gear ratios, a new turbocharger and hard compound tyres for lower rolling resistance.

These combine to slash the loading on the engine, boost efficiency and lower emissions.

By **STEVE LOADER**

Golf BlueMotion prices start from £15,565 and other BlueMotion models are drawn from the Golf Plus (from £16,765) – the high roof MPV-style version of the regular Golf hatch – Golf Estate (from £16,320), Jetta saloon (from £16,260) and Passat (from £17,260 and pictured above) saloon and estate.

Unlike the Polo BlueMotion, which uses a 1.4-litre TDI turbodiesel, all the new BlueMotion models are powered by a 1.9-litre TDI 105PS (103bhp) unit linked to a special diesel particulate filter in the exhaust.

The effect of all of these measures is demonstrated by a potential average fuel consumption of 62.8mpg and CO2 emissions of just 119 g/km for the Golf BlueMotion against 56.5 and 132 respectively for its standard equivalent, though this also costs from £638 less.

The economy measures give the Golf BlueMotion a theoretical range in excess of 750 miles from its 55-litre fuel tank though.

As I found with the Polo BlueMotion, the gains are not at the expense of comfort or safety either; all Golf BlueMotion models are fitted with air con as standard as well as a multi-function display advising on the optimum moment to change gear.

Standard safety kit includes ABS with hydraulic brake assist, six airbags, electronic stabilisation programme (ESP) and traction control.

The £16,745 Match model adds alloys, sports suspension, cruise control and leather trim for the steering wheel, gear knob and handbrake grip.

While prices are higher for these special versions, they are not astronomical; it means that the actual economic savings through using less fuel and better tyre wear combined with the environmental feel good factor, make BlueMotion an attractive way to go – in the short term, at least.

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INSIDE

Honda takes on big boys Page 58

Kia's workhorse estate Page 59

Hyundai's having 'i' time Pages 62-63

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07 57 **NEW MODEL MERIVA 1-6 LIFE** AUTO PAS SILVER DELIVERY MILES ... £10995
07 57 **NEW ZAFIRA 2-2 LIFE** AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK DELIVERY MILES ... £13995
07 57 **NEW AURIS 1-6 VVT T3** 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C GREY MET 1500 MILES ... £12995
07 57 **NISSAN NOTE 1-5 SVE** AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C SILVER 2000 MILES ... £11995
07 57 **NEW ASTRA 1-6 SX SPORT HATCH** 3 DR AUTO PAS 1000 MILES ... £11995
07 57 **FUSION 1-6 ZETEC** CLIMATE AUTO PAS PANTHER BLACK DEL MILES ... £10995
07 57 **ASTRA 1-8 CLUB** AUTO PAS ESTATE PANNACOTA 1000 MILES ... £11995
2007 **FUSION 1-6 PLUS** CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C AMYTHYST 4000 MILES ... £9995
2007 **PEUGEOT 307 SW SE** ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS TAHITI BLUE 3000 MILES ... £10995
2007 **BMW 318 M SPORT** AUTO PAS 5DR SAPPHIRE BLACK 7000 MILES ... £21995
2007 **VW POLO 1-4 SE** 5 DR AUTO PAS GREY WITH LEATHER 4000 MILES ... £11995
2007 **VW POLO 1-4 S** 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER A/C 7000 MILES ... £9995
2007 **ASTRA 1-8 LIFE** AUTO PAS 5 DR LATEST MODEL BLUE 5000 MILES ... £9995
2007 **MERCEDES A150 CLASSIC SE** AUTO AIR/C BLUE DELIVERY MILES ... £13995
2007 **CITROEN C3 1-6 SX** AUTO PAS TUSCAN BLUE METALLIC 2000 MILES ... £8495
2007 **CITROEN C3 1-6 SX** AUTO PAS METEOR BLUE DELIVERY MILES ... £8995
2007 **NEW YARIS 1-3 T3** 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 3000 MILES ... £9995
2007 **PEUGEOT 1007 DOLCE TRONIC** AUTO PAS AIR BLACK 950 MILES ... £7995
2007 **CALIBER 2-0 SXT** 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C LEATHER RED 3000 MILES ... £10995
2007 **FOCUS C-MAX 2-0 ZETEC** AUTO PAS TANGO RED 3000 MILES ... £16995
2007 **FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC** CLIMATE 5DR ALLOYS AIR SEA GREY 6000 MILES ... £10995

MINI

01 51 **MINI ONE** AUTOMATIC PAS METALLIC BLUE 51000 MILES ... £6995

MAZDA

06 56 **MAZDA 2 1-4 S** AUTO PAS 5 DR BLACK CD PLAYER 4000 MILES ... £6995

FUSION & FIESTA

05 55 **FIESTA 1-6 GHIA** 5 DR AUTO PAS TONIC BLUE LEATHER 4000 MILES ... £8995
05 55 **FIESTA 1-6 STYLE** 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE MET 6000 MILES ... £8495
05 05 **FIESTA 1-4 LX** 5 DOOR AUTO PAS AIR/C DK BLUE MET 5000 MILES ... £7495
05 54 **FUSION "3" 1-6** AUTO PAS 5 DR GREY ALLOYS AIR/C 14000 MILES ... £7995
04 54 **FIESTA 1-4 GHIA** 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 15000 MILES ... £7495

NEW FORD FOCUS

06 56 **FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC** CLIMATE EST AUTO PAS SILVER FSH 4000 MILES ... £10995
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06 56 **FOCUS 1-6 LX** 5 DR AUTO PASAIR/C TANGO RED 8000 MILES ... £8995
06 56 **FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC** CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES ... £9995
05 55 **FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC** CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLUE 13000 MILES ... £9495
05 55 **FOCUS 1-6 LX** ESTATE 5 DR AUTO PAS PANTHER BLACK 7000 MILES ... £8995

FOCUS

04 54 **FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC** 5DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS ROSSO RED 15000 MILES ... £5995
04 54 **FOCUS ZETEC 1-6** CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C SUNROOF 19000 MILES ... £6495
04 54 **FOCUS 1-6 LX** AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS DEEP ROSSO A/C 12000 MILES ... £7495
04 54 **FOCUS 1-6 LX** AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS SILVER A/C 6000 MILES ... £7995
04 54 **FOCUS 1-6 LX** AUTO PAS 5 DR ALLOYS TONIC BLUE AIR 13000 MILES ... £7495
04 54 **FOCUS 1-6 LX** ESTATE 5 DR AUTO PAS MAGNUM GREY 18000 MILES ... £7995
04 54 **FOCUS 1-6 LX** ESTATE 5 DR AUTO PAS DEEP ROSSO RED 8000 MILES ... £7995
04 04 **FOCUS 1-6 GHIA** AUTO SALOON AIR/C ALLOYS SILVER 28000 MILES ... £7995
04 04 **FOCUS 2-0 GHIA** 5 DR AUTO PAS LEATHER TONIC BLUE 24000 MILES ... £8495
04 04 **FOCUS 16 GHIA** AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS SILVER AIR/CON 27000 MILES ... £7995
03 53 **FOCUS 1-6 LX** 4DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS TONIC BLUE 13000 MILES ... £5995
03 53 **FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC** 3DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS TONIC BLUE 25000 MILES ... £5495
03 03 **FOCUS 1-6 GHIA** ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS AIR/C ROSSO 53000 MILES ... £5995
03 03 **FOCUS 1-6 LX** AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C GREEN 38000 MILES ... £4995
02 51 **FORD FOCUS 2-0 GHIA** AUTO AIR ALLOYS 4 DR BLUE 46000 MILES ... £5995
00 W **FORD FOCUS 1-6 LX** ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR GREEN 35000 MILES ... £3995

CORSA

06 06 **CORSA 1-4 ACTIVE** AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C SILVER 4000 MILES ... £8995
05 55 **CORSA 1-4 DESIGN** AUTO PAS AIR/C 3DR STAR SILVER 7000 MILES ... £8495
05 55 **CORSA 1-4 DESIGN** AUTO PAS AIR POMORANITE RED 7000 MILES ... £7995
05 05 **CORSA 1-4 DESIGN** AUTO PAS 5DR SPEARMINT SILVER 17000 MILES ... £7995
05 54 **CORSA 1-2 LIFE** 5 DR AUTO PAS SPEARMINT SILVER 8000 MILES ... £5995
04 54 **CORSA 1-4 DESIGN** 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C AZTEC GOLD 3000 MILES ... £6495
05 54 **CORSA 1-2 LIFE** 5 DR AUTO PAS SPEARMINT SILVER 15000 MILES ... £5995
04 54 **CORSA 1-4 DESIGN** 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C AZTEC GOLD 2000 MILES ... £6495
04 54 **CORSA 1-4 DESIGN** 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BREEZE BLUE 19000 MILES ... £5995
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03 53 **VECTRA 2-2 SXI** 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 20000 MILES ... £6995

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06 56 **HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE SPORT** AUTO PAS SILVER BLUE 1500 MILES ... £10995
06 06 **HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE** AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C MET BLUE 6000 MILES ... £9995
04 04 **HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE** 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C MET BLACK 21000 MILES ... £8495
00 X **CIVIC 1-4 SE** 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C METALLIC BLACK 38000 MILES ... £3995

CITROEN'S

06 56 **CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE** AUTO SILVER 5000 MILES ... £9995
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04 04 **YARIS T SPIRIT 1-3** AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR SILVER MET 20000 MILES ... £7995
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04 04 **YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT** 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 14000 MILES ... £7995
03 53 **YARIS 1-0 T3** AUTO PAS CD BLUE METALLIC 21000 MILES ... £5995
03 52 **YARIS 1-3 GLS** 3 DOOR AUTO PAS MET GREEN 17000 MILES ... £5495
01 Y **YARIS VERSO 1-3 GS** 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER 43000 MILES ... £5995

FIAT

05 05 **PUNTO DYNAMIC** 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS RED 4000 MILES ... £6995
04 04 **PUNTO DYNAMIC** 5 DOOR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 14000 MILES ... £5995

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06 06 **NISSAN MICRA 1-2 SE** 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C PACIFIC BLUE 11000 MILES ... £6995
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06 06 **NISSAN MICRA 1-4 SVE** 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BEIGE MET 4000 MILES ... £8495
06 55 **NISSAN MICRA 1-4 SVE** 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C PACIFIC BLUE 8000 MILES ... £7995
06 06 **NISSAN MICRA 1-2 SE** 5 DR AUTO PAS BLACK 15000 MILES ... £7495
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05 05 **ALMERA 1-8 SE** AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR MET ICE BLUE 11000 MILES ... £6495
05 54 **NISSAN TINO 1-8 SE** AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 24000 MILES ... £6995
04 54 **NISSAN MICRA 1-2 SE** 5 DR AUTO PAS BLADE SILVER 6000 MILES ... £6495
04 54 **NISSAN MICRA 1-2 SE** 3 DR AUTO PAS SILICA GOLD 15000 MILES ... £5995
04 54 **NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S** 3 DR AUTO PAS CORAL BLUE 4000 MILES ... £5995
02 02 **NISSAN MOCRA 1-0 S** 3DR AUTO PAS RED 32000 MILES ... £3995
98 S **NISSAN MICRA 1-3 GX** 5 DOOR AUTO PAS SUNROOF 72000 MILES ... £2995

SUZUKI

06 56 **SUZUKI JIMNY JLX +** AUTO PAS ALLOYS BLUEISH BLACK 8000 MILES ... £8995
05 55 **SUZUKI JIMNY JLX** AUTO PAS ALLOYS SILVER/GOLD 2000 MILES ... £7995
05 05 **SUZUKI JIMNY JLX** AUTO PAS ALLOYS SILVER 8000 MILES ... £7495
05 05 **SUZUKI ALTO 1-1 GL** 5 DR AUTO PAS 1560 MILES ... £3995
04 54 **SUZUKI 1-3 WAGON R GL** AUTO PAS BLUE METALLIC 7000 MILES ... £5995
04 04 **JIMNY JLX MODE** AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C BLACK 24000 MILES ... £5995
01 Y **SUZUKI JIMNY JLX** AUTO PAS ALLOYS MET GREEEN 25000 MILES ... £3995

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04 04 **ROVER 45 1-8 CONNOISSEUR** BLUE LEATHER ALLOYS 8000 MILES ... £8995
04 53 **ROVER 25I XL** 5 DR AUTO PAS BRG /BLACK LEATHER ALLOYS 15000M ... £5995

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06 06 **CHEVROLET MATIZ 0-80 SE** 5 DR AUTO PAS OCEAN BLUE 10000 MILES ... £5495
05 55 **CHEVROLET KALOS 1-4 SX** AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE MET 8000 MILES ... £7495
05 55 **CHEVROLET KALOS 1-4 SX** AUTO PAS AIR/C POLY SILVER 8000 MILES ... £7495
05 54 **CHEVROLET KALOS 1-4 SX** AUTO PAS AIR/C POLY SILVER23000 MILES ... £5995
04 53 **DAEWOO NUBIRA 1-8 CDX** AUTO PAS SILVER AIR/CON 14000 MILES ... £5995

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06 56 **VW POLO 1-4 S** 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C CORNFLOWER BLUE 3000 MILES ... £8995
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04 54 **VW GOLF 1-6 S** AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR SILVER SAND 21000 MILES ... £9995
04 54 **VW LUPO 1-4 E** AUTO PAS BLACK 3DR 10000 MILES ... £6495
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KIA

06 06 **KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX** 5 DR AUTO PAS BURNT RED 10000 MILES ... £5995
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00 W **MONDEO 2-0 LX** 5 DR AUTO PAS BLUE 31000 MILES ... £3695

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06 06 **ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN** AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE GREY 21000 MILES ... £8995
06 06 **ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN** 5DR AUTO BLACK LEATHER ALLOYS 11000 MILES ... £8995
04 54 **ASTRA 1-6 CLUB** AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SILVER 18000 MILES ... £6495
04 54 **ASTRA 1-8 LIFE** AUTO PAS AIR/C MET GOLD 7000 MILES ... £6995
03 53 **OLD ASTRA 1-6 CLUB** AUTO PAS 5DR ESTATE AIR RED 21000 MILES ... £5995

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06 56 **NEW ZAFIRA 2-2 LIFE** AUTO PAS AIR/C TURQUOISE 3000 MILES ... £12995
05 05 **ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE** AUTO PAS CD AIR/C MET GREEN 10000 MILES ... £7995
04 54 **ZAFIRA 1-8 DESIGN** AUTO PAS CD AIR/C MOONLAND 14000 MILES ... £7995
04 54 **MERIVA 1-6 ENJOY** AUTO PAS AIR/C SPEARMINT SILVER 15000 MILES ... £6995
04 53 **MERIVA1-6 ENJOY** AUTO PAS 5DR GOLD 23000 MILES ... £6495
01 Y **ZAFIRA 1-8 CLUB** AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER LIGHTNING 31000 MILES ... £5995

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05 05 **GRAND SCENIC 2-0 DYNAMIC** AUTO PAS AIR 7STR BLACK 14000 MILES ... £9995
05 05 **KANGOO 1-6 EXPRESSION** AUTO PAS MET SILVER 12000 MILES ... £7495
05 05 **KANGOO 1-6 EXPRESSION** AUTO PAS MET SILVER 10000 MILES ... £7995
05 05 **MEGANE 1-6 EXPRESSION** SALOON AUTO PAS AIR HESSIAN 18000 MILES ... £6995
04 54 **MODUS 1-6 PRIVILEGE** AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS EXPRESSO 12000 MILES ... £7495
04 54 **KANGOO 1-6 AUTHENTIQUE** AUTO PAS AIR/C MET BLUE 11000 MILES ... £7995
04 54 **SCENIC 1-6 EXPRESSION** AUTO PAS AIR/CON BLUE 5000 MILES ... £7995
04 54 **MEGANE 1-6 EXPRESSION** ESTATE AUTO PASAIRCONGREY 9000 MILES ... £7495
04 54 **SCENIC 1-6 EXPRESSION** AUTO PAS AIR/CON FLAME RED 4000 MILES ... £7995
04 54 **RENAULT CLIO 1-4 EXPRESSION** AUTO PAS RED 3DR 13000 MILES ... £5995
04 04 **KANGOO 1-6 AUTHENTIQUE** AUTO PAS MET BLUE 5000 MILES ... £5995

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03 53 **CITROEN BERLINGO 2-0 HDI** DIESEL 5 SPEED BLUE 53000 MILES ... £4995
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05 05 Astra Convertible 1.8 Exclusiv

Silver Lightning, Was £10,995
Now £8,995 Save £2,000

04 54 Vectra 1.8 Energy 5dr

Black Sapphire, Was £6,995
Now £5,995 Save £1,000

07 56 Astra 1.8 Design Estate

Star Silver, Was £9,995
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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Accord aims high – again

HONDA is pitching its all-new Accord at the likes of Mercedes, BMW and Audi – but we've been there before.

The outgoing car was launched with brave talk about attacking the premium sector, only for the Japanese marque to draw back and identify a lesser 'mainstream premium' niche for the car.

But we must not be too cynical; Honda engine technology is up with the German premium marques and those in the new line-up will comply with strict and forthcoming EuroV emissions legislation.

Honda is also claiming better chassis dynamics.

The new car's styling is an evolution of the current car, although increased width and a lower stance accentuated by bigger wheel arches give it a more muscular look that is most noticeable on the new Tourer or estate.

The previous Tourer was an impressive and practical load-lugger, but its successor is far more stylish and could rival dearer German equivalents such as the Audi A6 and BMW 5-Series Touring, even though the Accord range is intended to attack the class below.

It should also help that Honda has upgraded the excellent 2.2 turbodiesel – the so-called 'whispering diesel' – launched on the outgoing Accord.

Chevy offering value of 'Epica' proportions

AMBITIOUS Chevrolet intends to attack the UK family saloon car market for the first time.

On the face of it this would upset fellow General Motors brand Vauxhall as much as the likes of Ford, Peugeot and Renault who still rely heavily on company car sales.

However, with Vauxhall signalling a move upmarket by dropping its Vectra company hack in favour of a classier product and name when the new Insignia arrives later this year, the new Chevrolet Epica may be a sound move.

It goes on sale in April from just £13,595, the sort of cash that buys an average family hatchback rather than a motor from the class above

and underlining Chevy's 'value brand' positioning within the GM stable – enabled by the former Daewoo Cars production base in Korea.

Fast Fiat is almost on the grid

ABARTH – Fiat's once legendary sporting brand – is roaring back after its parent's return to profitability.

A new Abarth headquarters has been completed in Fiat's home city of Turin and the company is about to re-enter rally competition with the Grand Punto-based S2000 model (pictured).

In addition, hot Abarth road-going versions of the Grande Punto, Bravo and even the new Fiat 500 are tipped for sale soon.

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by STEVELOADER

Sowing a Kia Ceed

LOOKING for a family workhorse and can't stand the idea of an MPV?

Here's a no-brainer option – the Kia Ceed SW.

It's a well-priced racy looking estate version of the Korean marque's rather stylish, but slightly less dynamic, family hatchback rival to the UK's number one seller, the Ford Focus.

But the Ceed SW's big selling point is the same unique seven-year/100,000-mile warranty as its sister – perhaps even more important if you need to work your estate car hard.

OK, that fastback styling might not look like it makes for the ultimate capacity in load lugging, but it adds 235mm onto the rear section of the hatch and Kia has cleverly moved the tailgate hinges inboard to reduce the upswing and outswing – owners can stand closer to the car and access the boot in tighter spaces.

Boot and maximum load space with this model are 534 litres – helped by some excellent underfloor stowage bins – and 1664 litres with rear seats folded, compared with 340 and 1300 respectively for the hatchback Ceed.

This is impressive against estates with more conventional looks too such as the Ford Focus (503 and 1546), Vauxhall Astra (470 and 1550) and new VW Golf Estate (505 and 1550).

Other benefits you get from buying an SW is that although it also costs around £700 more than the equivalent Ceed hatchback the 1.6 diesel of our test car is a cracking all-rounder in its higher output 113bhp guise, especially for a potentially hard-working estate car like this and will average nearly 60mpg.

And you can forget about plasticky old Korean interiors of the past with the whiff of Airfix modelling glue; the Ceed range has been designed to be European and is churned out in a state-of-the-art plant in Slovakia with the fit, finish and touch of the interior up to Western standards and even includes an iPod/MP3 player connection that really does work… unlike some.

The Ceed SW was also the first Kia to have the indicator stalk on left-hand side of the steering column. It took time and I sympathise with Kia trying to please British tradition ie that drivers of right-hand drive cars need to keep their left hand free for gear changing, so the right should do the signalling. Unfortunately, we have become so used to Continental imports that we now prefer things the wrong way round rather than (on) the right. Clear?

Anyway, copying the likes of Ford, Vauxhall and VW for interior quality is comparatively easy, but getting the chassis dynamics right will need more work at home.

The Ceed's ride can be fidgety and it feels vague when pushed hard on a winding road, though grip is good.

On the other hand, you should view the Ceed SW as an unbreakable workhorse that pitches itself again van-based MPVs like the Citroën Berlingo Multispace and compact MPVs like the Skoda Roomster and Vauxhall Meriva and as well as Focus-class estates

With prices from £12,995, it really is a no-brainer.

DrivingStats

- Kia Ceed SW 1.6 CRDi LS.
- Range: £12,995-test car.
- Garage stats: 4.47m by 1.79m five-door estate.
- Powertrain: 1,582cc/113bhp four-cylinder turbodiesel driving the front wheels through a five-speed manual gearbox.
- Performance: top speed 117mph and 0-62mph in 11.7 seconds.
- How green?: category-C and 128g/km CO2 emissions.
- Official fuel figures: combined 57.6mpg.
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): n/a
- Fuel tank: 53 litres/11.6 gallons.
- Insurance group: 6.
- Warranty: seven years/100,000 miles.
- Website: www.kia.co.uk
- Rivals: any Ford Focus class estate, but also worth considering against small MPVs and mentioning in main feature.

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07	FABIA 1 1.2 12V 70BHP 5DR HATCH	1372	FLAMENCO RED	£9,660.00	£2,470.00	£7,190.00
07	FABIA 1 1.2 12V 70BHP 5DR HATCH	848	SATIN GREY	£9,660.00	£2,470.00	£7,190.00
57	FABIA 1 1.2 12V 70BHP 5DR HATCH	TBA	FLAMENCO RED	£9,946.00	£1,956.00	£7,990.00
57	FABIA 1 1.2 12V 70BHP 5DR HATCH	TBA	STORM BLUE	£9,920.00	£1,930.00	£7,990.00
07	FABIA 1 1.4 TDI 80BHP 5DR HATCH	2171	BLACK MAGIC	£11,125.00	£2,635.00	SOLD
57	FABIA 2 1.4 16V 85BHP 5DR HATCH	TBA	CAPPUCCINO BEIGE	£10,421.00	£1,931.00	£8,490.00
57	FABIA 2 1.6 16V 105BHP 5DR HATCH	TBA	CORRIDA RED	£10,975.00	£1,985.00	£8,990.00
57	FABIA 3 1.9 TDI 105BHP 5DR HATCH	TBA	SATIN GREY	£13,475.00	£1,985.00	£11,490.00
07	FABIA BOHEMIA 1.2 12V 64BHP 5DR ESTATE	TBA	SATIN GREY	£9,750.00	£1,760.00	SOLD
ROOMSTER						
56	ROOMSTER LEVEL 1 1.4 16V 85BHP 5DR MPV	1615	CORRIDA RED	£10,610.00	£3,620.00	£6,990.00
07	ROOMSTER LEVEL 1 1.4 16V 85BHP 5DR MPV	1853	DIAMOND SILVER	£11,700.00	£3,210.00	SOLD
07	ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 1.4 16V 85BHP 5DR MPV	2196	STORM BLUE	£12,420.00	£2,930.00	£9,490.00
57	ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 1.4 16V 85BHP 5DR MPV	TBA	CAPPUCCINO BEIGE	£13,020.00	£3,030.00	£9,990.00
07	ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 1.6 16V 105BHP 5DR MPV	3528	ANTHRACITE GREY	£12,350.00	£2,360.00	£9,990.00
07	ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 1.6 16V 105BHP 5DR MPV	TBA	OCEAN BLUE	£12,590.00	£2,600.00	£9,990.00
57	ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 1.6 16V 105BHP 5DR MPV	TBA	OCEAN BLUE	£13,140.00	£2,650.00	£10,490.00
57	ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 1.6 16V 105BHP 5DR MPV	TBA	ANTHRACITE GREY	£13,280.00	£2,790.00	£10,490.00
57	ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 1.6 16V 105BHP 5DR MPV	TBA	FLAMENCO RED	£13,250.00	£2,760.00	£10,490.00
57	ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 1.9 TDI 105BHP 5DR MPV	TBA	STORM BLUE	£13,980.00	£2,990.00	£10,990.00
07	ROOMSTER LEVEL 3 1.4 16V 85BHP 5DR MPV	3218	OCEAN BLUE	£13,430.00	£3,440.00	£9,990.00
OCTAVIA						
57	OCTAVIA CLASSIC 1.9 TDI 105BHP DSG 5DR HATCH	TBA	FLAMENCO RED	£15,230.00	£4,240.00	£10,990.00
07	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 2.0 FSI 150BHP 5DR HATCH	3397	SATIN GREY	£15,020.00	£5,030.00	£9,990.00
56	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 1.9 TDI 105BHP 5DR HATCH	7489	BLACK MAGIC	£15,115.00	£5,125.00	SOLD
57	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 1.9 TDI 105BHP 5DR HATCH	TBA	DIAMOND SILVER	£15,115.00	£4,125.00	£10,990.00
07	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 2.0 TDI 140BHP 5DR HATCH	3754	STORM BLUE	£16,595.00	£5,105.00	SOLD
57	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 2.0 TDI 140BHP 5DR HATCH	TBA	HIGHLAND GREEN	£16,595.00	£4,605.00	£11,990.00
57	OCTAVIA ELEGANCE 2.0 TDI 140BHP 5DR HATCH	TBA	FLAMENCO RED	£17,615.00	£4,625.00	SOLD
07	OCTAVIA VRS 2.0 FSI 200BHP 5DR HATCH	TBA	CORRIDA RED	£18,805.00	£4,815.00	£13,990.00
07	OCTAVIA VRS 2.0 TDI 170BHP 5DR HATCH	TBA	RACE BLUE	£20,110.00	£4,620.00	SOLD
57	OCTAVIA VRS 2.0 TDI 170BHP 5DR HATCH	TBA	CORRIDA RED	£20,570.00	£4,280.00	£16,290.00
07	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 1.6 FSI 115BHP 5DR ESTATE	TBA	CAPPUCCINO BEIGE	£14,460.00	£3,470.00	£10,990.00
57	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 1.9 TDI 105BHP 5DR ESTATE	TBA	STORM BLUE	£16,835.00	£3,845.00	£12,990.00
57	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 2.0 TDI 140BHP 5DR ESTATE	TBA	SATIN GREY	£17,885.00	£3,895.00	SOLD
57	OCTAVIA VRS 2.0 TDI 170BHP 5DR ESTATE	TBA	RACE BLUE	£21,420.00	£3,930.00	£17,490.00
57	OCTAVIA L&K 2.0 FSI 150BHP AUTO 5DR ESTATE	TBA	FLAMENCO RED	£20,380.00	£3,890.00	£16,490.00
07	OCTAVIA SCOUT 2.0 TDI 140BHP 5DR ESTATE	4087	SATIN GREY	£21,360.00	£5,370.00	SOLD

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REG	MODEL / ENGINE	MILEAGE	COLOUR	COST NEW	SAVING	PRICE TO YOU
FABIA						
Y	FABIA COMFORT 1.4 MPI 68BHP 5DR HATCH	44372	DIAMOND SILVER	£4,490.00	£500.00	SOLD
04	FABIA COMFORT 1.4 16V 100BHP 5DR HATCH	29365	GRAPHITE GREY	£6,490.00	£500.00	£5,990.00
05	FABIA AMBIENTE 1.4 16V 100BHP 5DR HATCH	27527	CORRIDA RED	£6,990.00	£500.00	£6,490.00
55	FABIA VRS 1.9 TDI 130BHP 5DR HATCH	27015	BLACK MAGIC	£9,990.00	£1,300.00	SOLD
06	FABIA ELEGANCE 1.4 16V 100BHP 5DR ESTATE	21073	GRAPHITE GREY	£9,490.00	£1,500.00	£7,990.00
OCTAVIA						
06	OCTAVIA VRS 2.0 FSI 200BHP 5DR HATCH	11478	DIAMOND SILVER	£13,990.00	£1,000.00	£12,990.00
07	OCTAVIA VRS 2.0 FSI 200BHP 5DR HATCH	1117	RACE BLUE	£16,490.00	£1,500.00	£14,990.00

QUALITY USED VEHICLES
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REG.	MODEL / ENGINE	MILEAGE	COLOUR	PRICE
FABIA				
54	FABIA CLASSIC 1.2 12V 64BHP 5DR HATCH	27739	SAHARA BEIGE	£5,990.00
56	FABIA CLASSIC 1.2 12V 64BHP 5DR HATCH	8791	ANTHRACITE GREY	£6,990.00
53	FABIA COMFORT 1.2 12V 64BHP 5DR HATCH	10241	LASER BLUE	£5,990.00
04	FABIA COMFORT 1.4 TDI 80BHP 5DR HATCH	TBA	DIAMOND SILVER	£5,990.00
05	FABIA AMBIENTE 1.2 12V 64BHP HATCH	18889	BLACK MAGIC	£6,490.00
52	FABIA SILVERLINE 1.4 MPI 68BHP 5DR HATCH	42537	DIAMOND SILVER	£4,990.00
51	FABIA COMFORT 1.9 TDI 100BHP 5DR ESTATE	68627	CAYENNE RED	£5,290.00
05	FABIA AMBIENTE 1.4 TDI 80BHP 5DR ESTATE	7146	STONE GREY	SOLD
OCTAVIA				
04	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 1.9 TDI 90BHP AUTO 5DR HATCH	20470	STONE GREY	£7,990.00
03	OCTAVIA ELEGANCE 1.9 TDI 110BHP 5DR HATCH	71062	BLACK MAGIC	£5,990.00
05	OCTAVIA ELEGANCE 1.9 TDI 105BHP DSG 5DR HATCH	29321	DIAMOND SILVER	£12,790.00
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Your deposit payment**	£999.00	Final payment to buy‡	£3229.21
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Model shown is Corsa Breeze Plus with optional metallic paint at extra cost.* Participating retailers only. **Deposit shown is greater than the minimum 10%. Where the minimum deposit is paid, monthly payments will be higher. †Monthly payments include £234 credit arrangement fee and £10 option to purchase fee, apportioned equally across the 35 monthly payments. ‡Where vehicle is returned with mileage above contracted mileage of 10,000 pa an excess charge of £0.09 per mile will apply. Supported Choices finance offer is subject to availability on Corsa Breeze Plus and Corsa SXi (excludes Northern Ireland) models registered between 05.12.07 and 01.04.08. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK supplied vehicles only. Finance by GMAC (UK) plc subject to status, applicants must be 18 or over. (Vaux34158)

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) for the Ford Ka Zetec Climate shown are: Urban 34.4-20.2 (8.2), extra urban 60.1 (4.7), combined 47.9 (5.9).Official CO2 emission figures range from 141(g/km). These offers supercede all previous offers. Retail sales only. Licensed credit brokers, written quotations on request,subject to status. Metallic paint an extra £350. Pictures for illustration purposes only. All vehicles must be registered by February 29th 2008.

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Range fuel consumption in mpg (ltrs/100km): Urban 14.8 - 52.3 (19.1 - 5.4), Extra Urban 31.0 - 68.9 (9.1 - 4.1), Combined 26.2 - 58.9 (10.8 - 4.8). CO2 emissions 121 - 334 g/km.

*The Contract Hire Finance Plans shown are applicable to VAT Registered Business Users Only and subject to status through Mitsubishi Contract Motoring (part of the official Mitsubishi Motors distribution in the UK), Watermoor, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1LF. Monthly rentals are based on a repayment pattern of 6 rentals in advance followed by 35 monthly in arrears. All rentals are subject to VAT and are based on an annual mileage of 10,000 miles and are non-maintained rentals. Excess mileage will be charged for. These offers are valid between 1st January and 31st March 2008. Savings are based upon the aggregate difference between our best rentals on the 6th November 2007 and those available now. Prices are correct at time of going to print and are subject to change without notice. Full quotations are available upon request. Indemnities may be required. Offers are only applicable at participating dealers in the UK (excludes Channel Isles & IOM).

Hyundai hits the 'i'

WATCHING Hyundai's efforts on the UK market used to be like watching a punch-drunk boxer.

You could see what the Korean firm was capable of if only it could land a blow, but its marketing strategy and cars kept missing the target by a mile.

While European and increasingly well-focused Japanese brands had clearly defined cars for the various model sectors, Hyundai would thrust ill-fitting stopgaps onto the market; there was no doubting the value for money and commitment to reliability, but sizing and the feel-good factor was lacking.

Well, Hyundai – the world's fifth largest motor manufacturer by sales – knows where the target is now and blows are starting to rain down on European and Japanese rivals, as shown by the new Hyundai i30.

It is the first of an entirely new range of 'European' Hyundais to wear the 'vowel that wowed the world' after success as the prefix to Apple computers' wave of gadgets, including the ubiquitous iPod MP3 player.

The i30 fits the big-selling family hatchback – or Ford Focus – sector like a glove, looks and feels good and is backed by Hyundai's usual package of keen prices and reliability supported by a unique range-wide five-year unlimited mileage warranty.

The thought and materials used are several generations ahead of where the i30's mismatched predecessors had been.

A small but significant pointer is, having chosen to pinch the iPod's prefix for its new line-up, Hyundai has wisely ensured that an iPod or equivalent MP3-player really works in the car.

Not only does it plug 'n' play straight away – most don't without fiddling… or complete failure – but also has a bespoke location in the front armrest away from prying eyes. There are no wires, connectors or player on view to tempt the light-fingered. Fit and finish is excellent at this price and Chrysler group brands, with their sharp edges and flaky fit, could learn much from this example.

The luxury of the leather seats on our 2.0 CRDi Premium flagship model were an added bonus – you really could be sitting in a car from a more upmarket – and expensive – brand.

The range of powertrains is good too, though the 2.0-litre turbodiesel of our car is not the pick – I prefer the 1.6 diesel, in particular for its mix of refinement, power and economy.

Out on the road though, you realise Hyundai still has work to do; it is one thing to mimic the cosmetics of your rivals, but quite another to create a top-notch chassis to ride well and satisfy the keen driver.

The i30 cruises well enough, is comfortable

DrivingReview

by **STEVELOADER**

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Hyundai i30

More affordable Volkswagens.

Polo Match £8,940.

'Charade' alloys | Unique 'Eden' upholstery | 'Climatic' semi-automatic air conditioning | Leather-trimmed steering wheel, hand brake and gear knob | Speed-sensitive power-assisted steering | iPod preparation | Height-adjustable drivers seat and under-passenger seat drawer | Electric front windows | Electrically heated and adjustable door mirrors | Split folding rear seats

Golf Match £15,445.

'Canberra' alloys | 6 airbags | 'Climatic' semi-automatic air conditioning | Unique 'Opera' upholstery | Cruise control | iPod preparation | 8-speaker radio/CD player | Leather-trimmed steering wheel, hand brake and gear knob | Rain sensor and automatic dimming interior rear-view mirror | Automatic coming/leaving home lighting function

Touran £13,925. Save £1,000.

'Misano' alloys Semi-automatic air conditioning | Multi-function computer | ABS (Anti-lock Braking System) with HBA (Hydraulic Brake Assist) | ESP (Electronic Stabilisation Programme) including EDL (Electronic Differential Lock) and ASR (Traction Control) | Cruise control | 4-speaker RCD 300 radio/CD player | 2 single seats in third row, can be folded flush into the floor of luggage compartment

Motorline Volkswagen
Dowding Way, Tunbridge Wells. Telephone: 01892 616212.
www.motorline.volkswagen.co.uk

Offers available until March 31st, 2008. Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Volkswagen range: urban 57.6 (4.9) – 13.3 (21.2); extra urban 88.3 (3.2) – 26.9 (10.5); combined 74.3 (3.8) – 19.5 (14.5). CO_2 emissions 99 – 348g/km.

note with its Focus

DrivingStats

- Hyundai i30 2.0 CRDi Premium £16,595.
- Range: £10,995-test car.
- Garage stats: 4.24m by 1.77m five-door hatchback.
- Powertrain: 1,991cc/138bhp four-cylinder turbodiesel driving front wheels through a six-speed manual gearbox.
- Performance: top speed 127mph and 0-62mph in 10.3 seconds.
- How green?: category-C and 145g/km CO2 emissions.
- Official fuel figures: combined 51.4mpg.
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): ****
- Fuel tank: 53 litres/11.7 gallons.
- Insurance group: 8.
- Warranty: five years/unlimited miles.
- Website: www.hyundai.co.uk
- Rivals: Alfa Romeo 147, Chevrolet Lacetti, Citroën C4, Fiat Bravo, Ford Focus, Honda Civic, Kia Ceed, Mazda3, Nissan Note or Qashqai, Peugeot 308, Renault Megane, Seat Leon, Skoda Octavia, Subaru Impreza, Toyota Auris, Vauxhall Astra and VW Golf.

and you certainly won't worry about breaking down. Take the cross country route though and i30 is a bit dull; it grips securely, but the body pitches into the bends and the ride can be unsettled by poor surfaces. It will be interesting to see whether Hyundai follows up with a hit model to prove it can get the chassis sorted if needed.

So the i30 shows that Hyundai is landing punches on European marques' sales and the i30 can really hurt less dynamic rivals such as the Toyota Auris which, despite the name change from the long-running Corolla, has the distinct whiff of old wine in new bottles about it.

But The Korean marque must now go on and hit the likes of VW, Vauxhall and Ford in terms of driver engagement – it will be tough.

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- Electric front windows
- Airbags (driver, front passenger, 2 front lateral)

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On the road price	£6,860
Customer deposit	£NIL
Total amount to be financed	£6,860
First payment	£119
Plus acceptance fee	£99
Optional final payment	£1,961
Plus option to purchase fee	£149
Total amount payable	£7,921
5.9% APR	
Excess miles over 10,000 p.a.	6p per mile

Renault Clio Expression 1.2 16V 3 door

- Electric front windows
- CD sound system with fingertip control
- Double optic headlamps with 'see me home' function
- Airbags (driver, front passenger, 2 front lateral)

No deposit & only £139.06 per month

47 monthly payments of	£139.06
On the road price	£8,085
Customer deposit	£NIL
Total amount to be financed	£8,085
First payment	£238.06
Plus acceptance fee	£99
Optional final payment	£2401.25
Plus option to purchase fee	£149
Total amount payable	£9,423.13
5.9% APR	
Excess miles over 10,000 p.a.	6p per mile

Renault Clio Extreme 1.2 16V 3 door

- ABS with EBD and Brake Assist
- 15w CD/Radio • Remote central Locking
- Electric front windows • 6 Airbags
- Power steering

No deposit & only £128.64 per month

47 monthly payments of	£128.64
On the road price	£7,571
Customer deposit	£NIL
Total amount to be financed	£7,571
First payment	£227.64
Plus acceptance fee	£99
Optional final payment	£2337.50
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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the range shown are: Urban 37.2–54.3 (7.6–5.2), Extra Urban 57.6–70.6 (4.9–4.0), Combined 47.9–64.2 (5.9–4.4). The official CO2 emission figures range from 117–139g/km.

*Deposit contribution only available with Renault Selections Finance. Prices include delivery to dealer, number plates, 17.5% VAT, 12 months' Government road fund licence and £50 first registration fee. Finance is subject to status. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) to apply for finance. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, P.O. Box 493, Watford WD17 1FJ. These offers apply to vehicles ordered by March 31st 2008 and are available to private and small business customers only. Cars shown with optional metallic paint an extra £360. Prices shown are cash price - this offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. All figures correct at time of going to press.

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Offical range of fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 23.3(12.1) to 50.4(5.6) Extra Urban from 35.8(7.9) to 72.4(3.9) Combined from 30.1(9.4) to 62.8(4.5) Offical CO_2 emissions from 119g/km to 228g/km.

Models shown: Grand Vitara X-EC 2.0 16v manual at £16,999 on the road (metallic paint included), SX4 1.6 GLX manual at £10,999 (metallic paint extra cost), Swift 1.5 GLX 5 door manual at £9,499 on the road (metallic paint at extra cost). 0% APR(typical) finance on Grand Vitara and SX4 models is over 3 years and subject to availability. All offers are for vehicles privately registered between 2 January 2008 and 31st March 2008 from participating authorised Suzuki Dealers only and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. Credit is available to persons aged 18 years or over, subject to status. Indemnities may be required. Terms may vary. For full details please contact your local Suzuki Dealer. Suzuki Finance reserves the right to withdraw or amend these offers without prior notice or prior warning. The offers are available to customers within the UK (excludes Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Suzuki Financial Services Limited, part of the Black Horse Group. Head & Registered office: St. William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff, CF10 5BH.

ALFA ROMEO

147 1.6, T Spark, 2001, red, 50685 miles, £3995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

156, 1.8 T SPARK, 2000 (v), 2000/v, 67759 miles red, 4 door saloon, pas, abs, metallic burgandy, £only £2795, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

156, 1.8 T SPARK, 2000, red, 67759 miles, £2195, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

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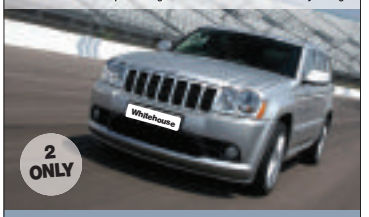

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A3, 2.0 TDi Sport 3dr DSG, ly04nff, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, traction control. insurance group:11, black, 36000 miles, £12994, SMC Mitsubishi Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 0844 5762476 (TRADE)

TT, 1.8 T Quaro, 719649, audi tt 1.8 t quattro 2dr [180] [6] hyundai hyundai Ashford drake & fletcher silver, 2002, 56360 miles, manual, petrol, 2 doors, 2 previous owners, silver, £11495, Drake and Fletcher Hyundai, Ashford, 0845 389 1214 (TRADE)

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CONTINENTAL GT, 2005, umbrian red met with saddle leather interior, 28000 miles, £64950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 316i SE 1895cc 4 door, 2000, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels met silver, 107000 miles, £3995, Northdown Road Motor Company, Margate, 01843 290890 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320ci, 389461, full leather, power steering, air conditioning, abs, air bag, metallic paintwork, steering wheel audio controls, power hood, electric windows, electric mirrors, multi-function steering wheel, 18'' alloys, blue, 53000 miles, £12999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 330ci SE, lj52hcl, climate control, abs, air bag, power steering, immobiliser, multi-function steering wheel, c17'' alloys, aluminium silver, 52000 miles, £9999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

KALOS, SX 1.4, 849639, finished in poly silver with black cloth interior manual, black, 1000 miles, £7495, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

KALOS, SX 1.4, 850639, finished in sports blue with black cloth interior manual, black, 1000 miles, £7495, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

KALOS, S 1.2, 851639, finished in poly silver with black interior manual, black, 1000 miles, £6195, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4 SX, 852639, finished in poly silver with grey interior manual, grey, 8000 miles, £5695, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE 1.0, 870639, finished in red with grey interior manual, grey, 41000 miles, £3995, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE 0.8, 867639, finished in ocean blue with black interior automatic, black, 8000 miles, £4995, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C3, 1.6i 16V SX 5dr Auto, 2006, 1.6i 16v sx 5dr auto hatch, iron grey, 11000 miles, £7495, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i SX 5dr, 2007, 1.4i sx 5dr hatch, silver, £7995, Barretts Citroen, canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i Cool 5dr, 2007, 1.4i cool 5dr hatch special edition, silver, 4800 miles, £8250, Barretts Citroen, canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4 HDi 16V SX 5dr, 2005, 1.4 hdi 16v sx 5dr diesel hatch, silver, 30000 miles, £6995, Barretts Citroen, canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

C3, 1.4i Desire 5dr, 2005, 1.4i desire 5dr hatch special edition, blue, 18500 miles, £5995, Barretts Citroen, canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

C3, SX, air conditioning, anti-lock brakes, drivers airbag, electric windows, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, split/folding rear seats, tinted glass, trip computer, red, 25440 miles, £5995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C3, Desire, silver, 31000 miles, £5795, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

DAEWOO

DAEWOO NUBIRA 4 door saloon, 06 2000, 1.6 p se mot july 08, 0 miles, £500, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SX 1.6, 25637, finished in mint green with black interior manual, black, 0 miles, £4995, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

LANOS, 1.4 S Hatchback 3d 1349cc, w583vlm, new mot very clean cheap tax & insurance, green, 33935 miles, £1495.00, DCD Autos, ASHFORD, 01233 642211 (TRADE)

FIAT

BRAVO, T-JET, alarm, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, central locking, drivers airbag, electric windows, passenger airbag, power steering, side airbags, red, 7000 miles, £11995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

COUPE, 2.0 16v, 1995, red, 72451 miles, £1995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

DUCATO, 11 2.0JTD, 655182, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, side load door, power steering, air bag, abs, cd player, red, 14000 miles, £6000, Clearways Commercials, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, E reg, 3doors, cd player, blue tooth technology, i-pod connection, body kit, alloys, fantastic value call dean or mark, red, delivery miles, £6995, Medway Autos, Kent, 01634 388887 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, anti-lock brakes, drivers airbag, electric windows, power steering, remote central locking, tinted glass, trip computer, metallic paint, psychadelic azure blue, 11000 miles, £7995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, drivers airbag, electric windows, passenger airbag, power steering, remote central locking, tinted glass, trip computer, metallic paint, orange, 14500 miles, £6995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

FORD

FOCUS, 1.6 LX 5dr Auto (2005 - 2007), 29/03/2007, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, grey, 10663 miles, £8999, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 LX 5dr (2005 - 2007), 30/03/2006, cd player abs power steering immobiliser electric windows, silver, 20403 miles, £7499, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 5dr [Climate Pack] (2005 - 2007), 30/03/2007, cd player driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, silver, 4251 miles, £12999, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 01233 504400 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Sport 5dr Auto (2005 - 2007), 29/03/2007, cd player abs silver, 9334 miles, £10499, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 TDCi LX 5dr CVT Auto [110] [Euro 4] (2006 - 20, 28/09/2006, cd player abs alarm driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, black, 11199 miles, £10134, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 01233 504400 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.8 Sport S 5dr (2006 - 2007), 12/02/2007, cd player abs alarm driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 14500 miles, £9299, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Sport 5dr [115] (2005 - 2007), 20/02/2007, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, grey, 12506 miles, £8999, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i [70] 3dr, 119985127, abs, air bag, rear wash/wipe, cloth upholstery, immobiliser, power steering, radio cassette, stereo, moondust silver, 11514 miles, £5499, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

KA, Collection 3dr, 5887079, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, air conditioning, cd player, power steering, cloth upholstery, radio, air bag, silver, 53200 miles, £3295, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, 2.0 SE Saloon 4dr VTec, 04/2001, air conditioning alloy wheels cruise control power assisted steering service history, silver, 55000 miles, £3, 995, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

CR-V, 2.0 i-VTEC Sport 5dr, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, climate control, cruise control, electric front windows, electric windows, cd player, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, headlamp wash/wipe, alloy wheels, blue, 14259 miles, £11299, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

CR-V, I-VTEC SE Sport, front fog lamps, side steps, rear wash/wipe, rear spoiler, remote central locking, alarm, half leather, electric windows, electric mirrors, electric sunroof, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, cd player, radio, twin air bags, abs, power steering, alloy wheels, 4x4, silver, 35600 miles, £7495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

LANDROVER

DEFENDER, 110 TDi County Station Wagon, alarm, cloth upholstery, tow pack, sunroof, radio cassette, power steering, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, alloy wheels, 4x4, road tax is £180 per year on this vehicle, epsom metallic green, 68000 miles, £12995, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

DEFENDER, 110 TDi County Station Wagon, alarm, power steering, rear wash/wipe, side steps, tow pack, sunroof, cloth upholstery, 13'' alloys, 4x4, road tax i sE180per year on this vehicle, black, 67000 miles, £11995, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

DEFENDER, 90 TDi Hard Top, remote alarm, tow pack, power steering, 4x4, road tax is £180 per year on this vehicle, white, 120000 miles, £6295, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

MAZDA

6, TS Tdi 143ps, 2005, grey metalic with black, 25000 miles, £9995, IJM Motors, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

6, TS D 143, 2006, grey metalic with charcoal, 31000 miles, £10495, IJM Motors, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

626, 2.0 GXi, 1998, insurance group 10 drivers airbag power steering central locking front electric windows, classic red, 71000 miles, £1789, A1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

230 SPORT KOMPRESSOR, 1998, fantastic car with full ivory leather interior.full sport pack. lilac/blue, 57, 000 miles, £5999.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

A CLASS, A160 Elegance 5dr Auto, 13/06/2001, abs alarm driver airbag power steering immobiliser cruise control electric windows, red, 28083 miles, £5499, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

A CLASS, A170 CDI Avantgarde Auto, 2002, insurance group 7 abs alarm alloy wheels body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors remote central locking side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment service history, aluminium silver, 66000 miles, £6000, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, Pepper 1.6 Auto, 2003, trim: cloth engine size: 1600 transmission: automatic no. of doors: 3, pearl black, 36000 miles, £10495, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

COOPER, 1.6 3dr, multi-disc cd player, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, immobiliser, central locking, remote front fog lamps, automatic electric windows, radio, stereo, cd player, 15'' alloys, pure silver black ro, 57042 miles, £8499, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

ONE, 2004, abs body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front head restraints height lumbar support rear electric windows rear headrests rear wiper remote central locking side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment traction control, metallic silver, 41450 miles, £8995, WJ Kling Vauxhall, Woolwich, 020 8854 8161 (TRADE)

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Total charge for credit including £10 admin fee	£1,110.36
Balance amount payable	£8,105.36
36 monthly payments	£161.51
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Kent Highway Services

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CARISMA, Elegance di-D Exe 5dr, gj53cyg, full leather, central locking, abs, air bag, power steering, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, air conditioning, electric windows, cd player, radio, uk supplied, 16'' alloys, blue, 64000 miles, £4499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

Colt, 1.1 Red 3dr, abs, air bag, twin air bags, central locking, electric front windows, cd player, rear wash/wipe, red, 23754 miles, £5299, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

PEUGEOT 306, R reg, 3-door, 2 ltr XSi. Blue, 12,000 miles, MoT, tax, recent cambelt. £1,100 ono. Tel: 077793 862741 (PRIVATE)

206, 1.4 HDI, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, abs, air bag, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, white, 50000 miles, £3495, Clearways Commercials, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

206, 2.0 GTi 180 3dr [DAC+CC], 17/03/2005, cd player abs alarm driver airbag power steering immobiliser auto climate control electric windows, black, 44115 miles, £8599, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

206, 1.6 GLX, 2001, insurance group 7 alarm audio remote control body coloured bumpers climate control drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cassette radio/cd multichanger remote central locking service indicator side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer history, onyx black, 60000 miles, £4000, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

206, S 1.4 SW, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coded interior, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, child locks, twin air bags, colour coded body, rear spoiler, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, electric front windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, blue, 57000 miles, £4490, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

307 1.6, LX, 2002, green, 42994 miles, £3995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

307 SW, 1.6HDi 110 SE Estate 5d 1560cc (2005), silver, 18000 miles, £9995.00, Greens Vauxhall Holborough, Snodland, 01634 246750 (TRADE)

406, GLX Turbo Diesel, 1998 (r), 5 door saloon, metallic green coachwork with grey cloth trim, service history, long mot, pas, ew x 4, em, air bags, remote central locking/alarm, cd hi-fi, alloys etc. a well looked after example. a bargain at only £1595, metallic green, miles, £1595, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

406, GLX Turbo Diesel, 1998 (r), 5 door saloon, diamond white coachwork with contrasting grey velour trim, service history, mot may 08, air conditioning, ew x 4, em, pas, air bags, alloy wheels, original hi-fi, only 1 former keeper. a snip at £1495 many more quality pre-owned cars for sale on: www.rivieracarsales.co.uk, diamond white, miles, £1495, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

RENAULT

MEGANE, Scenic Expression 16v 5dr, 303461, remote central locking, immobiliser, cd player, electric windows, power steering, air conditioning, abs, air bag, cloth upholstery, head restraints, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, radio, rear wash/wipe, uk supplied, black, 49000 miles, £5999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MEGANE, 1.6 VVT Dynamique 2dr, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:7, black, 22000 miles, £8994, SMC Mitsubishi Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 0844 5762476 (TRADE)

MEGANE, 1.6 RT, 2000, green, 77000 miles, £1995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

ROVER

25, Impression S 3 5dr, rear wash/wipe, rear spoiler, remote central locking, alarm, immobiliser, electric front windows, electric mirrors, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, air conditioning, abs, power steering, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, green, 32700 miles, £4295, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

25, L Stepspeed 5dr Auto, ad52 lsk, rear wash/wipe, remote central locking, alarm, immobiliser, electric front windows, electric mirrors, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, radio cassette, power steering, air bag, abs, electric sunroof, cloth upholstery, silver, 34900 miles, £3595, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

25, 1.4 SEi 5dr [84Ps], abs, air bag, alarm, air conditioning, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, retractable headrests, folding rear seats, rear armrest, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, metallic paintwork, automatic electric windows, electric windows, cd player, stereo, 15'' alloys, tropy blue met, 18151 miles, £5499, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

SAAB

9-3, Linear TID 1.9, oct 2004, two previous keepers, power steering, remote central locking, air conditioning, electric windows, 6 speed gearbox, full service history, radio/cd player, on-board computer, tinted glass, adj. steering column, seat height adjuster, alloy wheels. silver metallic, 32,000 miles, £9, 495, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

9-3, 1.8t Linear Convertible 2d 1998cc (2004), black, 28000 miles, £14495, Maidstone Saab, Snodland, 01634 246 750 (TRADE)

9-3, 2.0T Aero Convertible 2d 1998cc 6sp (2004), ice blue, 4000 miles, £25995, Maidstone Saab, Snodland, 01634 246 750 (TRADE)

9-3, 1.8t Linear Convertible 2d 1998cc auto (2004), fushion blue, 6000 miles, £16995, Maidstone Saab, Snodland, 01634 246 750 (TRADE)

9-3, 1.9TiD (120bhp) Linear Sport Saloon 4d 1910cc (2005), anniversart model, ice blue, 6000 miles, £17995, Maidstone Saab, Snodland, 01634 246 750 (TRADE)

9-3, 1.9TiD (150bhp) Linear Sport Saloon 4d 1910cc (2005),espresso black, 31000 miles, £11495, Maidstone Saab, Snodland, 01634 246 750 (TRADE)

9-3 VECTOR, 2005,pearl black, 34700 miles, £14995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

9-5 CONVERTABLE, 2000 (w), stunning diamond black coachwork with grey leather trim, full service history, electric pack, remote central locking, alarm, air con, electric windows, alloy wheels, original hi-fi, stunning condition, true luxury at an affordable price, diamond black, low milage miles, £5695, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

9000, 2.3 CDE Saloon 4d 2290cc auto, n, very rare auto saab 9000 griffin, very fast car very clean, immaculate for year, green, 100k miles, £1399.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

SEAT

ALTEA, Sport TDi 2.0 140PS 5dr DSG, nov 2004 one previous keeper, power steering, remote central locking, climate control, electric windows, on-board computer, auto dim rear view mirror, front fog lamps, tinted glass, rear wash/wipe, adj. steering column, seat height adjuster, sports seats, split rear seats, alloy wheels, parking sensors, two tier boot floor. luna grey metallic, 11, 000 miles, £11, 495, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

ALTEA, Reference 1.6 102PS 5dr, sept 2006, one previous keeper, power steering, remote central locking, air conditioning, front electric windows, 5 speed gearbox, full seat service history, abs brakes, engine immobiliser, factory car alarm, tinted glass, rear wash/wipe, adj. steering column, seat height adjuster, split rear seats. emocion red, 7,000 miles, £9,795, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

SKODA

FELICIA, Gli, central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, folding rear seats, power steering, child locks, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, electric mirrors, radio cassette, 14'' alloys, burgundy metallic, 98000 miles, £1095, Kent Motorvation, Maidstone, 01622 600 456 (TRADE)

OCTAVIA, Elegance,i mmobiliser, remote central locking, locking wheel nuts, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, head restraints, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, folding rear seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, child locks, colour coded body, front fog lamps, headlamp jetwash, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, automatic electric windows, electric mirrors, climate control, electric sunroof, radio cassette, multi-disc cd player, 16'' alloys, one private owner, full service history, only 43, 000 miles. bronze metallic, £5495, Kent Motorvation, Maidstone, 01622 600 456 (TRADE)

OCTAVIA, Ambiente 5dr, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coded interior, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, air conditioning, multi-disc cd player, radio cassette, silver, 66000 miles, £3490, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

SUZUKI JIMNY JLX, 09 2000, 1.2 p auto 4x4 estate red 45.000 miles, £2495, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

ALTO, 1.1 GL Hatchback 5dr, 04/2004, power assisted steering alloy wheels fog lights cd player full service history 1061cc 16v, met black, 18000 miles, £3, 995, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

ALTO, 1.1 GL Hatchback 5dr, 07/2004, 1061cc 16v power assisted steering central locking full service history, bright red, 29500 miles, £3, 695, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

ALTO, GL, 2005, red, 14970 miles, £3595, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

RAV-4, Nv D-4d, ao52dgz, immobiliser, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, air bag, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, radio, cd player, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, stereo, uk supplied, 4x4, blue, 60000 miles, £6999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

RAV4, 2.0 GX 5dr, 18/12/2001, cd player abs power steering immobiliser electric windows, silver, 54860 miles, £5999, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 01233 504400 (TRADE)

YARIS, 1.0 VVTi Colour Collection 3dr, abs, air bag, twin air bags, central locking, electric front windows, cd player, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, trip computer, automatic electric windows, stereo, 15'' alloys, crystal silver, 45385 miles, £5499, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

YARIS, 1.3 VVT-i T3 5dr, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, air conditioning, electric front windows, cd player, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, height adjustable seat, retractable headrests, folding rear seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, curtain airbags, metallic paintwork, automatic electric windows, radio, steering wheel audio controls, stereo, grey met, 38374 miles, £7799, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

YARIS, GS 3dr, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, radio, aluminium silver, 58000 miles, £3499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

YARIS, 1.3 Vvt I Sr, sunroof, 2007, 1103 miles, automatic, silver, £9995, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

YARIS VERSO, 2004, metallic blue, 20902 miles, £6295, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

ASTRA, 1.9 CDTi SRi [120] 5dr, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, alloy wheels, sapphire black met, 17000 miles, £10799, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

ASTRA, 1.6i 16v Design [115] 3dr Easytronic, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, alloy wheels, silver, 762 miles, £11499, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

ASTRA, 1.6i 16b Design 5dr, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, alloy wheels, blue met, 14802 miles, £8499, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

ASTRA, 1.7 CDTi 16V Design [100] 5dr, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, half leather, electric front windows, electric windows, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, alloy wheels, beige met, 31464 miles, £8799, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

ASTRA, 1.4i 16V Club 5dr, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, silver, 7034 miles, £8299, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

CORSA ENERGY, 2004, central locking approved driver's airbag power steering history check, silver lightening, 30300 miles, £4795, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

CORSA SXI, 3 door, 2007, cd player central locking approved driver's airbag history check, silver lightening, 3250 miles, £7395, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

CORSA SXI, 3 door, 2007, cd player central locking approved driver's airbag multiple airbags power steering history check, ultra blue, 5500 miles, £6995, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

VOLKSWAGEN

BEETLE, 1.4, 2005, trim: cloth engine size: 1400 storm blue, 26000 miles, £8995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

GOLF, 1.4 S 5dr [AC], abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, traction control, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, reflex silver, 32600 miles, £8999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

GOLF, 1.6 Sport FSI 5dr, ca07kzf, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, traction control, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, alloy wheels, grey met, 3763 miles, £11499, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

GOLF, 2.8 vr6, 1998, black, 93000 miles, £2500, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

GOLF, 1.4 Match 5dr, remote alarm, colour coded interior, height adjustable seat, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, alloy wheels, black, 45000 miles, £8990, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

GOLF, 1.9 Sport TDI 5dr, 16/05/2005, cd player abs alarm power steering immobiliser electric windows, silver, 52073 miles, £8999, Invicta Motors, Ramsgate, 01843 853555 (TRADE)

GOLF, 2.0 Avantgarde Cabriolet 2d 1984cc, r, lovely car. purple, 75, 000 miles, £3200.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

GOLF, 2.8 V6 4Motion Hatchback 5d 2792cc (2000.5), silver, 59000 miles, £4390, Queensborough Salvage, Queensborough, 01795 661133 (TRADE)

VOLVO

850, GLT 7 Seater, central locking, half leather, centre armrest, head restraints, heated seats, electric mirrors, electric sunroof, radio cassette, uk specification, 15'' alloys, m.o.t. until 2nd august 2008. no £1295, Kent Motorvation, Maidstone, 01622 600 456 (TRADE)

850 T-5, 2.0 TURBO, 1996 (n), automatic, 5 door estate, met green coachwork with tan leather trim, service history, long mot, amazing spec, air con, power seats, electric windows etc, etc – very powerful car! good condition only £2295, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

S40, 1.8 Sport, alarm, immobiliser, remote central locking, colour coded interior, full leather, sports seats, heated seats, adjustable steering column, trip computer, power steering, abs, multiple airbags, child locks, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, headlamp wash/wipe, front fog lamps, rear spoiler, electric mirrors, electric windows, climate control, radio cassette, cd player, xenon headlamps, alloy wheels, silver, 64000 miles, £5990, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

S40, SE, Im53 eov, front fog lamps, full leather, rear headrests, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, electric windows, electric mirrors, height adjustable seat, radio cassette, cd player, air conditioning, twin air bags, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, heated seats, alloy wheels, silver, 40000 miles, £5995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

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RIDE: the award-winning VRSCDX Night Rod Special is top of the cruiser bike category

Harley-Davidson just cruising on

LEGENDARY US bike brand Harley-Davidson continues to enjoy a large slice of the burgeoning British bike market.

Machines like the multiple award-winning VRSCDX Night Rod Special and the classic Fat Boy and Electra Glide ranges sit firmly at the top of the buoyant cruiser bike category, where the brand continually beats off challenges from Kawasaki, Yamaha and Suzuki.

But the lighter Sportster family has also played a key role in rising sales, according to Harley-Davidson's European MD John Russell.

He said: "Our heavyweight touring and cruising motorcycles command incredible loyalty and many European enthusiasts make these motorcycles a part of their way of life.

"However, most Sportster sales are to people new to the Harley-Davidson experience. We have worked hard to underline the affordability of these motorcycles and, encouragingly, a great many Sportster owners go on to explore the rest of our product range."

Industry tells the Government – 'Take motorcycling for reducing pollution'

by STEVELOADER

BIKE industry chiefs have told the Government, local councils and transport planners to start treating motorcycling as a serious alternative to cars and public transport.

The call comes after an 8.6 per cent increase in motorcycle, scooter and moped registrations last year – the biggest annual jump in registrations for seven years.

David Taylor, chief executive of the Motor Cycle Industry Association (MCIA), said: "There are now over 1.2 million powered two wheelers (PTWs) on UK roads and after several years of flat sales, there are strong indications that people are seeing PTWs as practical and, most importantly, relevant forms of personal transport.

"PTWs are part of the solution to the problems of congestion and pollution and it's time for motorcyclists to be properly considered and treated seriously.

"All too often, the needs of car owners, commercial vehicles and public transport seem to take priority with those on two wheels being ignored or treated as an afterthought.

"We simply want equality and the incentives that come with the recognition that PTWs ease traffic and parking congestion, reduce emissions and provide people with reliable and efficient personal transport."

The MCIA would like to see:

- New transport policies acknowledging PTWs as a viable alternative to tackle congestion and CO2.
- Better roads with an emphasis on protecting vulnerable road users through faster and more efficient road maintenance
- An end to an often unforgiving road infrastructure that's clearly not been designed with all road users in mind
- The promotion of PTWs as a legitimate and relevant congestion-busting means of travel including exemption from road pricing, parking and congestion charges and given access to bus lanes and secure parking facilities
- A lower rate of vehicle excise duty so that no motorcycle costs more to tax than the smallest car.

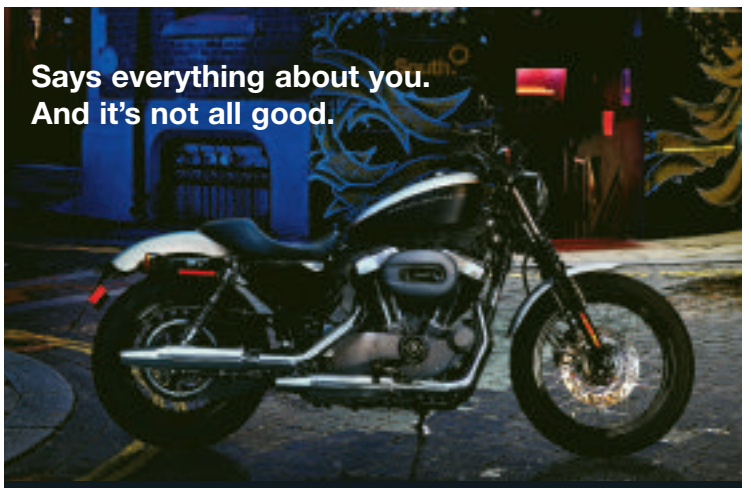
The MCIA claims that despite the Government announcing a motorcycle strategy in 2005, there has been little progress in implementing it and PTWs are almost completely ignored in the Government's latest core transport policy paper, Towards a Sustainable Transport Policy.

Mr Taylor believes this is not good enough.

He said: "The industry feels that despite warm words from ministers, the 'mainstreaming' of motorcycling in transport policy simply isn't happening.

"Government at all levels must stop placing barriers in front of the development of motorcycling, improve safety for PTW users and recognise motorcycling as a legitimate form of transport.

"We have roughly the same proportion of PTW users as there are cyclists. In some parts of the country there are more PTW users than cyclists. Yet cyclists enjoy considerable policy support and initiatives while PTWs get almost nothing. For a government that expresses so much concern about PTW safety, it's bizarre that PTWs are still sidelined in mainstream policy."



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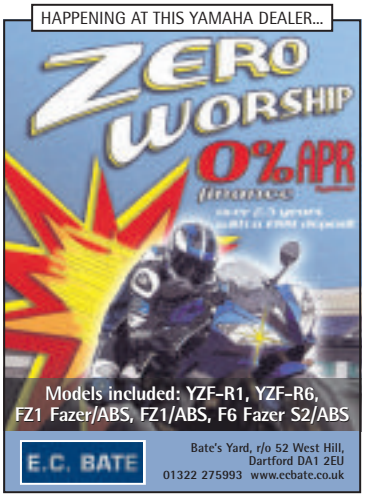

Models included: YZF-R1, YZF-R6, FZ1 Fazer/ABS, FZ1/ABS, F6 Fazer S2/ABS

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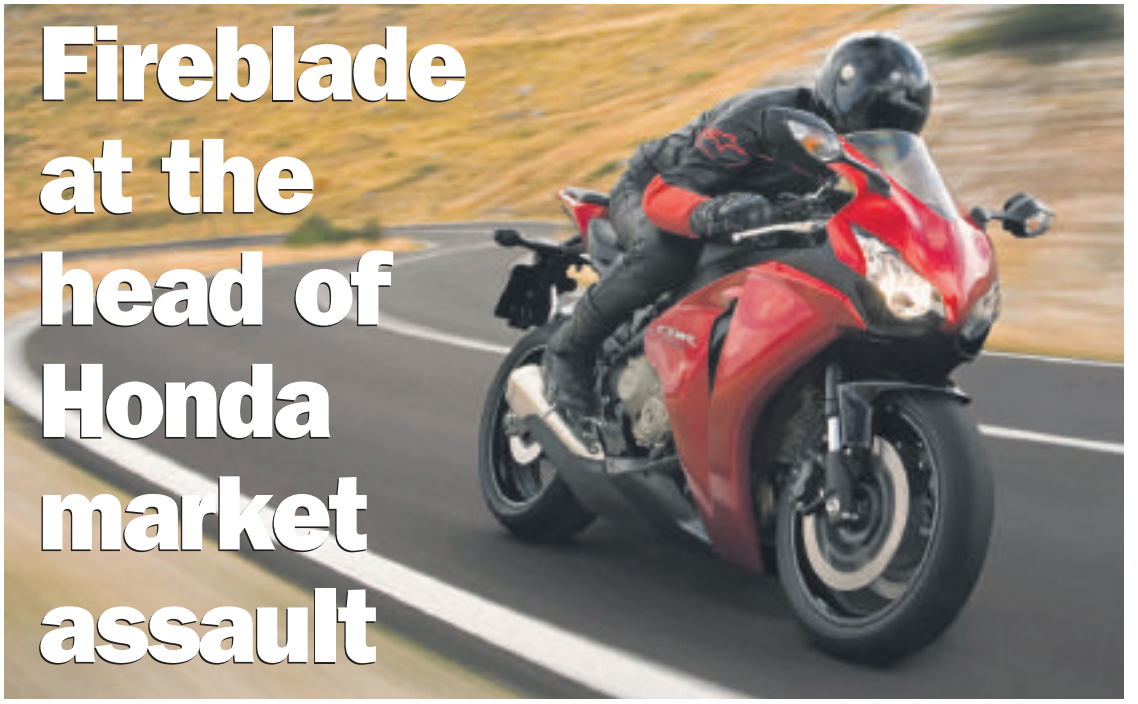
Credit is available subject to status. Finance provided through Black Horse Ltd, 62 Player Street, Nottingham NG7 2FY. Promotion ends 31st March 2008. Offer subject to availability for machines privately registered between 1st January 2008 and 31st March 2008. Model shown DL1000 Grand Touring K7. Offer also available on Bandit 650's, SV650's, GSR600, DL650's & 1000, GS500 & DRZ400. Offer available to customers within the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. This offer is not transferable to second or subsequent owners and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to press. Promoter: Suzuki GB PLC, Steinbeck Crescent, Sneilshall West, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK4 4AE.

Fireblade at the head of Honda market assault



HONDA has highlighted its 2008 line-up with a stunning all-new version of the CBR1000RR Fireblade.

It follows up on the big success of its predecessor, which won the 2007 World Superbike title in the hands of Briton James Toseland and successfully defended its British Superbike title with Japanese ace Ryuichi Kiyonari.

John McGuinness also had a sensational year aboard his Fireblade, breaking the lap record at the Ulster GP and claiming his 13th Isle of Man TT victory, becoming the first rider to break the 130mph average speed in the process.

The new 2008 Fireblade has been developed from these winning machines and has been given the compact dimensions, 'mass-centralisation' technology and aggressive looks of Honda's RC212V MotoGP machine, to provide owners with the ultimate in Supersports performance.

Engine, suspension, brakes, frame and fairing have all been re-designed to reproduce race-like high performance on the road.

Another exciting model is the CB1000R. This all-new machine features a version of the 2007 Fireblade's 998cc motor. The chassis uses a cast aluminium frame and front suspension and brakes developed for the Fireblade.

The look of the new CB1000R is of a thoroughly-modern street bike with an insect-like headlight cluster, muscular mid-section and short, stubby tail-unit showing off an exposed four-spoke rear wheel and single-sided swingarm.

Ducati looks for more as 2008 set to be a big year

CHARISMATIC Italian motorcycle maker Ducati is looking ahead to a bumper year in 2008 following last year's 37 per cent sales boost and success on the track.

The brand scored its first ever MotoGP World Championship win, leading to insatiable demand for the road-going version of the race bike – the Desmosedici RR pictured here.

The UK market has also fallen in love with the new Ducati 1098 and 1098S – more than 800 units were sold in 2007.

The Hypermotard has also become an cult machine and the commercial success Ducati had hoped for. Some have already tipped this to be a real contender for bike of the year along with the 1098.

Yamaha zeroes in on attractive finance

YAMAHA is running its most comprehensive finance scheme ever. A total of 16 models, including top performers such as the YZF-R1 and YZF-R6, benefit from zero per cent deals with just £199 down over 2.5 years subject to status.

The full line-up of machines available on the scheme, and including some ABS versions, is: YZF-R1, YZF-R6, FZ1/FZ1 Fazer, FZ6 S2, FZ6 Fazer S2, FJR1300A and AS, XJR1300, TDM900, XT660X and XT660R (pictured).

The new scheme has been rolled out across all authorised Yamaha dealers and is administrated by Black Horse Finance. This scheme is active for a limited period only.

A Yamaha spokesman said: "With 16 machines in the scheme it gives the customer a difficult choice as to which Yamaha to buy.

'We are very pleased that we can offer an easy way to bring more people into the Yamaha fold – riders new to the brand will not be disappointed."

Full terms and conditions and an Authorised Yamaha Dealer locator can be found on Yamaha's website, www.yamaha-motor.co.uk.

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Alliance will put award-winning technology in emerging markets

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

TUNBRIDGE Wells-based Synchronica plc, the leading UK mobile email and synchronization company, has just clinched an agreement with a mobile phone giant which will launch it into key global emerging markets.

The agreement with Miami-based Brightstar Corp, which distributed one in every 20 mobile phones in the world in 2007, extends Synchronica's reach across six continents and was announced at the GSMA Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.

The deal will see Brightstar promoting Synchronica's award-winning mobile push email and synchronization technology Mobile Gateway in 50 countries in Europe, North America and Asia Pacific, Africa and India.

It's a significant agreement because this will be in mainly emerging markets, where people are more likely to have mobile phones than broadband, and so the firm's product – what is called "middleware" connecting the emailbox to the phone – will have a major impact.

It uses software already on the phone, so there is no need to download any middleware, as with other providers.

It will be tailor-made for its markets.

The two companies will create a dedicated sales and marketing team that will draw on Brightstar's vast customer base and initial marketing undertaken by the teams has generated positive responses from potential customers.

More than 15 opportunities with mobile operators are now in active discussion and/or under trial and Synchronica has hired a dedicated sales representative in Miami to handle this alliance and ensure its success.

Brightstar, with estimated gross revenues of $4.8 billion in 2007, serves many of the world's leading mobile network operators.

It has a strong presence in fast-growing emerging markets in Asia Pacific, Africa, India, and throughout Latin America, as well as North America, Europe and Australia.

Synchronica chief executive officer Carsten Brinkschulte said: "This is an outstanding validation of Mobile Gateway which provides an easy to use and affordable way for accessing email on mass market mobile phones.

"Brightstar's marketing flair, as well as its far reaching and established supply chain extends our global reach, in particular in the booming emerging markets of Latin America and Asia where we see a tremendous opportunity for growth."

Brightstar vice president, data centric and enterprise, Michael Tate, said: "Mobile Gateway is best in class. We see a huge opportunity for push email and synchronization solutions, and Mobile Gateway is sure to generate tremendous interest across the world."

Synchronica, which has 25 employees in Tunbridge Wells, also has a development center in Germany and presences in the USA, Hong Kong, and Dubai.

Disabled woman empowered by new work initiative

A BIG stores group which teamed up with an internet information service for disabled people has transformed the life of a Tunbridge Wells woman.

Zoë Barnard, 22, took part in a Marks & Spencer initiative to help disabled people get back into work by giving them greater confidence and essential skills.

The link-up with DisabledGo aims to empower people with disabilities and provides work experience to help those who face real barriers finding a job.

Called Marks & Start, the programme began four years ago and has already helped 2,500 adults and is the biggest of its kind in the UK.

Zoë, who suffers from depression and anxiety, joined the M&S Tunbridge Wells store on the programme and during her placement she experienced day-to-day work in different areas of the store.

On completion of the programme she secured a position at the store as a customer assistant on womenswear.

In partnership with DisabledGo, M&S offers a specially tailored four-week work experience placement and that helps people with disabilities rebuild their confidence and develop new skills for life and work.

Zoë, who was unemployed for three years before the placement, said: "M&S gave me the opportunity that I needed to get back to work.

"Before joining the Marks & Start programme I applied for lots of jobs, but I never heard anything back.

"I felt this was because of my disability and also the fact that I hadn't worked for so long.

Overwhelmed

"M&S was very understanding and accommodating during my placement. My colleagues accepted that I could become overwhelmed by lots of people and that I might need to take time away from the shop floor to ease my anxiety, so they positioned me in the lingerie department during my placement as it tends to be quieter.

"I used to feel very low and lacked confidence, but since starting my new job I feel so much happier.

"I've got my social life back again, both inside and outside of work and feel more comfortable meeting new people."

Gregory Burke, founder of DisabledGo, said: "People with disabilities face serious challenges to secure employment in the UK and are five times more likely than non-disabled people to be out of work.

"I'm delighted that M&S has put policy into practice with the Marks & Start programme, helping place employment experience within reach."

Alexis Swimer, community programme manager at Marks & Spence, said: "Through the Marks & Start programme we are delighted to be able to offer work experience placements to people from all different backgrounds.

"At M&S we recognise there are a huge number of people who, with a little encouragement and support, could make an invaluable contribution in the workplace."

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Get your marketing solved this leap year

KENT bosses are being asked to leap into action this leap year and try and win 24 hours of creative consultancy – completely free.

Remedy, based in Southborough, near Tunbridge Wells, is inviting business owners and marketing managers across the county to say how they would most like to spend their ideal day.

And the most inspiring idea will win 24 hours of creative consultancy.

Remedy managing director, Lisa Casson said: "Remedy will work closely with the winner to help boost their business. We could take a fresh look at their brand, come up with some new logo concepts, redesign their website or create an advertising campaign."

Businesses interested in entering the competition should send their idea, using between 24 and 240 words, to 24hours@remedycreative.com by midnight on February 29.

The competition winner will be informed by March 7.

Seminar will cover new corporate Act

MAIDSTONE-based solicitors Brachers is holding its latest health, safety and environmental seminar at its Medway House on March 20.

This will be a special event aimed at preparing for the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 coming into force on April 6.

It will focus on systems which organisations should have in place to reduce their exposure to liability for corporate manslaughter – and which should improve their overall efficiency and safety too. It will be departing from its usual seminar format with an interactive session.

Groups from the audience will be the jury in a practical case study.

More information is availble by contact Brachers on 01622 690 691.

Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Thinking small is key to Google's success

BEN Legg, Google's UK boss, gave an insight into the thinking of one of the hi-tech world's most successful companies recently – and it's think small.

At a lunch meeting in Tunbridge Wells he said: "I think if you look at Google's track record we tend to acquire fairly small companies with great technology.

"So if there's a company that's maybe one step ahead of us and we think it is quicker to buy than develop the idea ourselves, then maybe we would buy."

He showed the packed meeting of West Kent Networking at the Hotel du Vin how advanced mobile phone usage is now – with route maps which can be accessed and used.

The service can only be used on the most recent phones – Google has just secured partnerships with Vodafone, T-Mobile and the Apple iPhone.

Mr Legg said it takes just a few clicks for a mobile phone user to confirm their location, get up a list of nearby pubs and then see the pub's menu.

More business news online
www.businessforkent.co.uk

Public asked for input on area's regeneration

RESIDENTS are being strongly urged to have their say following the launch of a new organisation to drive forward the commercial development of two key areas of land in Thanet, ***writes Tony Patey***.

East Kent Opportunities (EKO), a joint venture between Kent County Council (KCC) and Thanet District Council (TDC), is set to regenerate the area by creating jobs, improving skills and training opportunities through the development of Eurokent and Manston Park.

Now the future use of Eurokent land to the south of the emerging Westwood Cross town centre is up for public debate after EKO launched a major community consultation programme, including a series of public events.

Eurokent, the 40-acre site situated next to the A256 Haine Road, is adjacent to the retail and leisure development at Westwood Cross, the Newington estate and the Marlowe Academy.

It is home to a number of businesses and includes Jackey Bakers sports fields.

Work recently began on a new £6.5 million spine road which, when completed later this year, will open up the Eurokent site and improve access to new developments at Westwood Cross and ease local congestion by avoiding the busy Haine Road.

EKO is currently undertaking a masterplanning process to determine how the land could be best used both now and in the future.

To ensure that local residents, community groups and the business community can have their say on the future of Eurokent, EKO will be holding a series of public events at Westwood Cross from February 26 to March 1, between 11am-5pm (except the 26th from noon to 7.30pm).

The team will also host a series of workshops, including one at Age Concern on the February 29.

A workshop designed to get the views of local young people will be held at the Marlowe Academy and a further two workshops will be arranged and publicised after the public exhibitions.

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD: Councillors Roger Latchford (left) and Roger Gough

Sustainable

KCC acquired Manston Park, formerly Kent International Business Park, following the collapse of PlaneStation in 2006.

The 27-hectare site is adjacent to Kent International Airport and currently contains a range of businesses including Cummins Power Generation, Avia Services and Invicta Food.

TDC's historical ownership of 40 acres at Eurokent will be put into the joint venture following the ending of an agreement with Rosefarm Estates.

Roger Gough, KCC cabinet member for regeneration, said: "East Kent Opportunities is all about making the most out of what we have got in terms of publicly owned land in order to transform this part of East Kent into a truly sustainable and vibrant place that is the envy of anywhere else in the South East."

Roger Latchford, a TDC member, said: "Thanet is an exciting place at the moment and increasingly in the commercial spotlight, thanks to the likes of Westwood Cross, Kent International Airport, Thanet Earth and the prospect of massive investment from overseas. By pooling our resources we will be better placed to plan for the future for the benefit of local parties and businesses."

The new venture is the result of the signing of 'Kent Commitment' by KCC and the county's 12 district councils to co-operate in shaping the area's economic growth and regeneration.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Firm gets top award

5 STAR Computer Systems, one of the UK's leading providers of integrated business management solutions and based in St Nicholas-at-Wade in Thanet, has been awarded Gold Partner status by global business software giant SAP.

This award – the only one in Kent – is SAP's highest level of endorsement and acknowledges 5 Star for its product knowledge, outstanding service levels, expert implementation of software and its extensive expertise in the enterprise resource management marketplace.

Taxman not cometh

BAKER Tilly, a leading firm of chartered accountants and business advisors, which has branches in Tunbridge Wells and Bromley, reports that the tax people have effectively backed down from a proposal for unannounced home visits by the tax team.

The firm had expressed concern, but now such visits will not be possible without the taxpayer's consent, unless the home is also used for business purposes, in which case access will only be permitted to the business part such as the office.

£20,000 prize winner

BECKENHAM'S Anthony Lau has been named one of Britain's top-10 student entrepreneurs in the HSBC Unipreneurs Awards. Anthony, who plans to start Cyclehoop, took the first prize of £20,000 and his entry will now be considered by a panel which will select five businesses to go through to the national judging session.

More business news online
www.businessforkent.co.uk

Good staff hard to come by and even harder to keep

STALWART: Barbara Tremble has been with the same firm for 13 years

DESPITE a boom in the rental market many letting companies are finding it increasingly difficult to find and hang on to good staff.

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

Although basic earning potentials remain good, letting companies are finding the market a tougher place with greater competition – and research shows many employees are choosing to either leave the industry altogether or sit tight, not expecting the grass to be greener in jobs elsewhere.

So firms try to attract new staff and hang on to good employees by flagging up offices where workers are happy and motivated and offering rewards, incentive schemes and working conditions ahead of their competitors.

Ashton Burkinshaw, a specialist residential letting and management company with 36 years experience, and employing 70 in 13 branches across Kent and Sussex, said it has always realised the importance of employing dedicated and enthusiastic staff.

It began as three 'family' companies (Frances Burkinshaw, Ashton Wingate and Douglas Rogers) which merged together to form Ashton Burkinshaw in 2003.

One of the few members of staff to have seen the company's development is Barbara Tremble, senior negotiator at the firm's Maidstone branch, who has been with the company for 13 years, working in four of its branches over that time.

Ms Tremble said: "When I started in 1995 tenants just wanted a 'home'; today tenants are more discerning with higher standards and they now want a 'lovely home', expecting the best in presentation and furnishings.

"Changes in legislation have helped considerably to reduce the number of 'rogue' landlords in the market, allowing us to offer better quality lets.

"Customer service to both tenants and landlords is now more important than ever."

Angie Atkins, Ashton Burkinshaw's HR manager said: "Ms Tremble is a perfect example of a long-serving, motivated and happy employee. For us it's about the long term, not only in retaining its clients but also retaining its staff."

Ashton Burkinshaw has branches in Chatham, Gravesend, Lewes, Maidstone, Swanley, Sevenoaks, Tenterden, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Wadhurst.

Designer outlet's green credentials

ASHFORD Designer Outlet has been recognised as one the most energy efficient shopping centres in the UK for its efforts to actively reduce carbon emissions.

The outlet, part of the McArthurGlen Group, received a top award at the National Energy Foundation Awards for successfully reducing the amount of energy it uses and encouraging energy awareness among its staff, contractors and brands.

Greg Lumley, at Ashford Designer Outlet, said: "It is very gratifying to be recognised for our commitment to the environment and our ongoing efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

"We are regularly coming up with new ways to reduce our carbon footprint at the centre such as installing sensors on all communal lighting, urinal flow controls in the toilet blocks, recycling bins in our food court and by encouraging our shoppers to become more environmentally aware."

ECO WINNERS: Nick Poole and Craig Moreland receive the from Dame Ellen MacArthur

To achieve EEAS accreditation organisations must show they are making real energy savings through management commitment, investment and energy efficiency measures.

EEAS assessor Alan Williams was impressed by the comprehensive grasp of energy efficiency at the designer outlet and praised the energy management team for its hard work.

He said: "The facilities manager has an in-depth appreciation of the opportunities available for energy efficiency. The waste management is comprehensively managed with food waste the only major landfill burden".

The award, which was presented by guest of honour Dame Ellen MacArthur to McArthurGlen's energy advisor Nick Poole, is regarded as a benchmark standard in energy efficiency by the Carbon Trust and Energy Institute.

Located just off junction 10 of the M20, Ashford Designer Outlet has more than 80 stores open every day.

To find out more please call 01233 895 900 or visit www.ashforddesigneroutlet.com.

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Tomorrow's leaders can see the need for change

By TONY PATEY
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

FUTURE looks good – the future is change. Those who're worried about some of the ways society is going may take heart from opinions of the business leaders of tomorrow.

Four out of five of the up-and-coming next generation of bosses say that "serious change" is needed if our society is going to survive into the 22nd century.

According to a major new survey sponsored by FTSE 100 life and pensions company Friends Provident, and carried out by Forum for the Future and higher education application manager UCAS, a startling 78 per cent of respondents believe a shake-up is necessary.

The survey, among 25,000 university applicants, revealed that when it comes to work the youth of today have major concerns when it comes to career development, the work/life balance, and job security.

Topping the list of important issues is having a job they find interesting (82 per cent), closely followed by being able to spend time with their family (68 per cent) and owning their own homes (46 per cent), which is lower than expected given this has been a high priority in the recent past, but perhaps perceptions are changing more towards rented.

But despite these important issues the leaders of tomorrow are still concerned about the future of the world itself.

They believe that the price of oil will be prohibitively expensive (89 per cent), climate change will be affecting their lives (85 per cent) and that there will be a rise in the frequency of natural disasters (80 per cent).

Worryingly, more than half (53 per cent) believe a nuclear weapon will have been used.

Only 16 per cent think the Government is doing 'a lot' to bring about change, compared to an alarmingly tiny six per cent for business. Less than a quarter (23 per cent) agree that Prime Minister Gordon Brown is genuinely committed to tackling climate change, and for David Cameron the figure is 22 per cent.

Legislation seems to be favoured as a means of delivering change.

A surprising 49 per cent think personal carbon quotas would benefit society; 86 per cent support the reduction of material consumption; and 40 per cent think a tax on air travel would benefit society, but only 16 per cent plan to avoid taking a flight for environmental reasons.

Julia Dreblow, marketing manager for socially responsible investment at Friends Provident, said: "Many people plan to take an ethical approach to their finances too, by reviewing their investments to avoid investing in companies that are not socially responsible."

Commenting on the findings, Peter Madden, chief executive of Forum for the Future, said: "This generation of students has a heavy burden to bear. They're the first to be fully aware of the damage that human beings are doing to the planet and the last with a chance to save it. That's quite some burden, but one that our future leaders seem confident they can carry."

How to get on the 2012 bandwagon

IF you want to join a growing list of British companies which have already been awarded contracts to service the 2012 Olympics, or to find out a little more about how your business could benefit, there's a special Business Consultants Group, Good Practice event which is being held on February 28 at The Hilton Hotel in Maidstone.

Speakers include Stephanie Holt, Kent County Council's manager for the 2012 Games, Paul Toben, regional Business Link programme manager for the Games and David Armstrong of Belmont International which is one of the UK's leading independent insurance and risk management advisers and the largest in South East.

Cost is £25.00 (plus VAT) and includes a light lunch and refreshments.

To book your place or find out more email heather.batt@individuallearning.co.uk or call Heather on 01622 754252.

Business Link to help with red tape

WITH employment tribunals on the rise and almost a third – 32 per cent – of Kent companies citing red tape as a constraint on their business, Business Link is highlighting a free online resource that aims to help.

The Business Link website's special 'Employing People' area not only gives small businesses easy access to the answers to many of their most pressing human resources concerns, but saves them time and money too.

Other useful online tools to save small businesses both time and cost include examples of written statements of employment that can be downloaded and a redundancy pay calculator.

For more information log on to www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast/employingpeople or call 0845 600 9006.

Demand growing for family housing

A FLATS building boom has led to a chronic shortage of family homes.

Now developers are keen to get planning consent for more sites suitable for semi-detached and detached houses, according to property experts RPC Land and New Homes, which has offices in Dartford, Tonbridge, Chatham, Ashford and Maidstone.

RPC managing director Peter Randall said: "I think there is no doubt market demand is for family housing rather than more apartments.

"Developers are now aiming to build more family housing."

For more information call Peter Randall on 01732 363633, visit www.rpcland.co.uk or call email p.randall@rpcland.co.uk.

Work the third party in many relationships

FOR thy sweet love remember'd such wealth brings, That then I scorn to change my state with kings.

That ending of one of Shakespeare's sonnets may find a different meaning of wealth with some of today's employees – they're love-struck with their work.

Well, that's according to an online survey from Lloyds TSB Business Insurance which shows that a staggering 71 per cent of employees would choose to stay late on Valentine's Day to deal with an urgent enquiry and only a quarter (25.3 per cent) would leave it until the following day.

Said a spokesman: "Most Brits put their job before their relationship and this is affecting our work-life balance.

"More than 22 million people in the UK work for small or medium-sized businesses (SMEs), and with four million people working more than 48 hours per week we are known to work the longest hours than any other European country.

"Even our quality time spent with partners is dominated by our jobs, with results showing that more than a third (38 per cent) said they talk about work 'very often' or 'often' when having a romantic meal with their partners."

Phil Loney, chief executive of Lloyds TSB Insurance, said: "However, if given the choice, almost half (43.3 per cent) of employees said they would leave an hour early on Valentine's Day rather than have a cash bonus from their boss. So, although we feel compelled to handle work inquiries, we do want to spend more time with our partners."

Interestingly, one in five said their dream business partner would be celebrity-chef Gordon Ramsay, a close second behind Sir Richard Branson (two in five). Only four per cent would go into business with their romantic partners.

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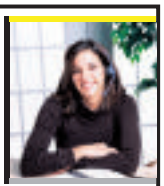

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Environmental czar is ready for the challenge

LONDON'S Kew Gardens have inspired many leading artists and scientists, so we should be pleased this special place is where our new regional environment czar likes to spend some of his spare time.

Dan Staniaszek has just started work in the newly created post of environment director at the South East England Development Agency and he has a clear brief – to slow down the region's growing ecological footprint.

A former policy advisor at Defra, who has also worked in the private sector, Mr Staniaszek will be working closely with Oona Muirhead, Seeda's executive director of sustainable prosperity, and her team.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Having recently taken up the newly created post of environment director at the South East England Development Agency, **Dan Staniaszek** has the difficult task of slowing down the regions growing ecological footprint. Here he speaks about his plans on contributing to solving this growing global problem

Q What are your qualifications and career to date?

A At school I did science A-levels, which laid the foundation for a place reading natural science at Oxford University. After a spell doing voluntary work, a gap year overseas and working at the Urban Ecology Centre based in Dartford, I then studied for an MSc in energy resources management.

My first 'real job' was as a local authority assistant energy manager, followed by spells with two consultancies and, most recently, part of the senior management team at the Energy Saving Trust. I am a member of the Energy Institute, which also entitles me to be a chartered engineer – even though I don't consider myself to be an engineer. Rather, I consider myself to be an environmentalist.

Q What made you choose this type of career?

A While I was growing up we suffered two global energy crises in the 1970s and experts were predicting that oil would run out within 30 years (in other words, by about now). And all around me I saw unacceptable levels of resource wastage and environmental degradation. I wanted to be part of the solution and not be contributing to the problem, so I feel a great sense of satisfaction that I've been able to carve out a career that helps to reduce man's impact on the environment.

Q What attracted you to work for Seeda?

A I'd been at the Energy Saving Trust for 14 years, virtually since it was formed, and even though I'd had a number of roles over the years, I was ready for a change.

The environment director role at Seeda particularly appealed to me because of the wide portfolio of responsibility – from energy and climate change to water, waste, biodiversity and quality open spaces.

Q What do you see as the main challenges for the environment and the South East, Kent in particular?

A The big issue is climate change. Few people now doubt that human activities are causing global warming which, if unchecked, will lead to potentially catastrophic impacts on the planet.

We're already suffering from water shortages in summer here in the South East – these are predicted to get worse.

Summers may become unbearably hot, while rising sea levels could result in widespread flooding and loss of land to the sea.

My role at Seeda encompasses both mitigation – in other words, doing all we can to reduce our carbon emissions – and also adaptation – planning ahead for some of the inevitable consequences of climate change in Kent and across the South East region. These themes are central to the development of the Thames Gateway where we are working with the London and East of England Development Agencies as well as central Government.

The vision is one of sustainable growth based on an inclusive and adaptive economy with a well-skilled workforce, high value inward investment, and top-rate innovation.

It also sees the creation of vibrant, creative and stimulating places, with developments of high quality design that enhance and protect valuable, natural environments.

Q What do you do to relax?

A With two young children, aged two and nearly five, I get precious little time for relaxation. We like to get out with family or friends to Kew Gardens, Richmond Park or other outside space to appreciate the beauty of nature. I love spending time with my kids, but it's really exhausting, so once they're packed off to bed (always a struggle) my wife and I usually flop in front of the telly to watch a film or some comedy in the evening.

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New office plans to achieve £55m turnover in first year

WILLMOTT Dixon's opening of a local construction office in Dartford has had an immediate impact on the local economy – 28 of the 51 new arrivals come from Kent and more are to follow as the business grows.

The Dartford office at Crossways Business Park plans to achieve a £55 million turnover in the first year, rising to £110m after four years.

In the past, Willmott Dixon's Kent projects, such as a ROKO leisure club in Gillingham and David Lloyd Leisure club in Kings Hill, have been managed from a local office in Cobham.

Operations manager Graham Gibbs said: "One of the attractions of locating in Dartford was the ability to attract a large pool of skilled people. There are openings across the business, from site-based projects to working at the office in Dartford.

"On top of that we already have six management trainees at Dartford."

Mr Gibbs' immediate focus is the £35m contract at HMP Swaleside on the Isle of Sheppey to provide a new 180-cell house block within the existing prison.

There will be major extensions to the segregation block, gym and education building, plus external works to existing car park areas.

Mr Gibbs said: "Opening our new Dartford office is a reflection of the buoyancy of the construction market in Kent."

Some staff already worked for Willmott Dixon, others have joined, such as Judy Usher, HR coordinator, and Vicki Chapman, commercial assistant, both from Gravesend, plus Kelly Elton, an estimator from Snodland. Willmott Dixon targets a total workforce of 150.

NEW MAN: Mr Graham Gibb

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FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£37.81

COUPLE AGED 30

AXA	£47.17
NORWICH UNION	£48.47
PRUDENTIAL	£48.61
BRIGHT GREY	£49.07
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT	£50.28
LEGAL & GENERAL	£50.50
BUPA	£50.78

COUPLE AGED 35

NORWICH UNION	£68.37
AXA	£69.41
BRIGHT GREY	£70.67
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT	£72.49
AEGON SE	£73.53
LEGAL & GENERAL	£73.60
FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£75.39

COUPLE AGED 40

AXA	£108.63
ZURICH	£117.76
BUPA	£122.88
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT	£123.82
PRUDENTIAL	£124.16

MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type **R%:** Rate percentage **L:** Loan **U:** Until **OD:** Other details

FIXED

NEWCASTLE BUILDING SOCIETY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.89% **L:** 90% **U:** 31/01/2010
OD: £2,500 ARRANGEMENT

CHELSEA BUILDING SOCIETY
RT: FIXED **R%** 5.19% **L:** 95% **U:** 01/02/2010
OD £2,500 ARRANGEMENT

PRINCIPALITY
RT FIXED **R%:** 5.39% **L:** 90% **U:** 31/03/2010
OD: £2,000 ARRANGEMENT

STROUD & SWINDON
RT FIXED **R%:** 5.39% **L:** 90% **U:** 31/10/2009
OD: £2,250 ARRANGEMENT

NATIONAL COUNTIES
RT: FIXED **R%** 5.49% **L:** 80% **U:** 31/01/2013
OD £695 ARRANGEMENT

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ABBEY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 7.49% **L:** 100% **U:** 02/05/2013
OD: £495 ARRANGEMENT

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Getting the payslip blues? Just ensure you know the regulations

IF you've looked at your payslip and found you've been deducted more than you should have been, take care you know your rights – especially if you want to go before an employment tribunal.

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

Amanda Finn at Gullands solicitors of Maidstone says an employer can only deduct money from an employee's wages if:

- They have statutory authority (for example, tax and national insurance payments or those following the order of a court)
- They have contractual authority (best shown by a written term stating that deductions can be made)
- There is a written agreement with the employee prior to the deduction
- It arises as a consequence of strike action
- For any contractual obligation to pay a third party (for example union dues)
- There has been an overpayment of wages or expenses.

If a deduction is made outside those criteria you should firstly use the statutory grievance procedure, sending the employer a letter setting out the cause for complaint.

The employer should then arrange a meeting at which the problem can be discussed and rectified.

But if it is not resolved, and you want to take the case before an employment tribunal must make a claim within three months of the deduction being made. There are procedures for the time limit to be extended if the statutory grievance procedure has been initiated, but employees should seek advice on this before allowing the initial three-month deadline to expire.

Where the deductions are not a one-off occurrence, but a whole string, the time limit runs from the date of the last deduction.

It is worth noting here what does and does not constitute wages for the purposes of this area of potential dispute. Wages include any fee, bonus, commission or holiday pay and include sick pay and maternity pay. Wages do not include advances, expenses including a car mileage allowance, redundancy payments or benefits in kind.

Where an employee has been overpaid an employer can make deductions from wages to recover the over payment.

Where the oversight occurs after the individual has left the employment the situation is not quite as clear cut. The employer usually has a good claim for restitution unless the employee can show that there has been a change of position in that:

- He did not realise he had been overpaid (it will be relevant here to look at the size of the overpayment and the clarity of the payslips together with how long ago the overpayments were made)
- It is not the employee's fault and he has not given the employer incorrect information
- The employee has changed his position in reliance on that money (for example signed up for a larger mortgage, bought a car etc).

If you need guidance on any employment matter, contact Amanda Finn at Gullands solicitors on 01622 678341 or by email at a.finn@gullands.com

LEGAL EXPERT: Amanda Finn offers advise in wage packet disputes

ASL receive ISO

A MEDWAY-based laboratory offering chemical testing services is one of only three in the UK to have been accredited the industry-recognised ISO standard.

The Analytical Services Laboratory (ASL) at the University of Greenwich at Medway has an international reputation for the analysis of metals in sediments and rocks.

It works with clients ranging from the oil industry, where results are used to help extract oil and gas from underground petroleum reservoirs, to forensic experts in high-profile crime cases.

For more information about the Analytical Services Laboratory contact on 020 8331 8359 or visit www.gre.ac.uk/asl.

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Movers & Shakers

A YOUNG Kent creative agency has won a pitch to work with bluechip company Capita Learning and Development – part of the FTSE100-listed Capita Group plc – beating off heavyweight rivals to clinch the deal.

Southborough-based Remedy impressed head marketers at the UK's leading provider of training courses and programmes with their innovation, design flair and expertise.

The agency worked with the marketing team to strengthen and consolidate the brand image, and re-design Capita Learning and Development's 2008 training directory.

Jonathan Wilcock, Remedy's creative director added: "Remedy is involved in all aspects of the project from facilitating an interactive workshop for Capita Learning and Development to gain a clearer understanding of their brand, to design, photography, copywriting and artwork."

Set up just four years ago, Remedy is a fast-growing full-service creative agency that produces marketing communications for a wide range of companies, from small charities to large corporations.

For further information, visit www.remedycreative.com or telephone Lisa Casson on 0845 108 1251.

GEOFFREY Pickerill (below, pictured right) has joined dynamic Vertex Law in his home county of Kent after more than 35 years of M&A – mergers and acquisitions – experience in the City.

The firm says Mr Pickerill's wealth of experience in providing corporate and wholesale business advice to a range of companies and institutions mirrors its own expertise and will help "ensure the continuing success" of the Kings Hill-based business.

Mr Pickerill said: "Vertex Law appealed to me greatly because its fresh and to-the-point approach to legal and business advisory services reflects how I manage any deal or relationship I become involved in.

"The added advantage of finding this level and quality of work and client contacts in my home county of Kent cannot be ignored."

Richard Blackman, Vertex chief executive officer, said: "His decision to join our M&A team is real recognition of how far we have come in the three years since Vertex Law was founded and shows that good corporate lawyers never really lose the passion for a challenge or a deal."

TUNBRIDGE Wells-based Reliance Mutual Insurance Society Limited (Reliance Mutual) has announced a reorganisation of its senior management team.

Mark Goodale, Reliance Mutual's chief executive, said: "The senior management team has been aligned to give us specific focus on our strategy going forward whilst maintaining our flat management structure to ensure the decision-making process remains responsive to market opportunities."

Led by chief executive, Mark Goodale, the new team is:

Chris Lerpiniere (above left) joins as head of operations, responsible for client and technical services, and IT; Roger Eastwood (right) joins as head of risk and corporate governance, responsible for managing all compliance, risk and legal services; Philip Bowden becomes head of strategy implementation, with specific responsibility of programme managing all future major projects including acquisitions and development of white label products.

Tim Birse, Cara Whatford and Roger Cuming remain as actuary, financial controller and head of investments respectively.

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Commercial property's still a good investment

DESPITE the so-called squeeze in the commercial property market as a result of the global credit crunch, Kent appears to be showing real resilience and again this month we are pleased to be able to report on successful transactions and new business being written.

Humberts in Canterbury has successfully sold a modern detached warehouse at St Augustine's Business Park in Swalecliffe for more than £1 million to Rally Design, which specialises in professional motor car parts and spares.

The vendor and previous occupier of the 16,105 sq ft warehouse was Hellyar Plastics, a leading independent compounder and distributor of thermoplastics, which undertook a strategic review of its business and premises with help from Humberts commercial director William Hinckley.

Commenting on these transactions, Mr Hinckley said: "I am delighted that we have been able to help Hellyar Plastics to successfully rationalise its premises, while also attracting a new occupier from outside the district.

"We continue to experience a good level of demand for freehold buildings and this is one of the best buildings of its type to have come to the market for some time.

"Commercial property continues to offer a good long-term investment and for owner-managed businesses the opportunity to combine an operational base with a business asset are compelling."

A CHANGE OF OWNER: Humberts in Canterbury successfully sold this warehouse for £1 million

At the same time, Kings Hill developer Liberty Property Trust UK Ltd is celebrating an excellent year, with around 80,000 sq ft of property transactions completed on the business park in the past 12 months.

One of the most significant transactions was the completion of a 43,717 sq ft build-to-suit headquarters for Cabot Financial (Europe) Ltd. The majority of space in the new, speculative office building, 42 Kings Hill Avenue, has been let and there has been a high level of lease renewals and assignments. A further 75,000 sq ft is currently under negotiation.

"Last year was good for Kings Hill and, judging by the level of interest we are receiving from companies wanting to move here, this year should be an exciting one too," said Andrew Blevins, managing director of Liberty Property Trust UK Ltd.

Knight Frank, CB Richard Ellis and Altus Edwin-Hill are the agents for Kings Hill.

Meanwhile, at last sense has prevailed and Thanet District Council has granted planning permission for the Turner Contemporary gallery to go ahead.

This means that Kent County Council is now able to look for a contractor and work is expected to start on site in autumn 2008, ahead of an opening date of 2010.

Designed by 2007 RIBA Stirling Prize winner, David Chipperfield Architects, the gallery will be one of the largest of its kind in the South East, with six interconnecting spaces, exhibition galleries, education space, plus a café and shop.

The ground-floor gallery will have spectacular views out to sea and adjacent to it there will be a multifunctional space in which talks, screenings and other events will take place.

The two-storey building will be clad in white opaque glass to withstand the harsh coastal conditions.

The successful operation of the gallery is a key element in the regeneration of Margate's eastern seafront and in generating prosperity in an increasingly vibrant old town.

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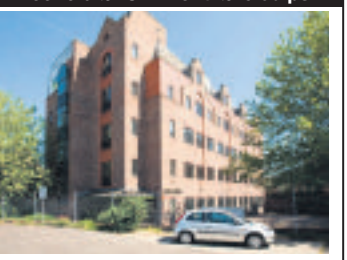

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BIG CHANCE: Maidstone's Chris Smalling

Smalling set for big move

MAIDSTONE UNITED youngster Chris Smalling could be on the verge of signing for a Premiership team, ***writes Tom Howard.***

The 18-year-old defender, who has developed through the youth ranks at the Stones, has been contacted by a number teams including Fulham, Middlesbrough, Reading, Charlton and Gillingham.

Smalling is training with Middlesbrough's academy side this week as part of a six-week trial and is set to play a game for them against Sunderland next week.

The interest in the central defender began after a solid performance for the England Schoolboys in a 2-0 victory over Australia last month.

The delighted teenager said: "It is all bit overwhelming for me – I just can't believe I am here really. I never imagined this would have happened to me at the start of the season. The training has been good and I have already seen the first team train.

"It was a bit surreal seeing Stewart Downing burst down the wing in front of me. I am staying in the same hotel as new Brazilian signing Alfonso Alves, which is a also a bit strange. I can't wait to play a match for Middlesbrough and see the first team in action."

The club are believed to have an option to sign him after the trial. Despite a number of clubs hunting for his signature, Smalling has not ruled out signing for the Teeside club if a deal is offered.

Dream

He added: "They are a Premier League club and it is most boys' dream to play football at the highest level. I know it is a long way from my home, but if I am offered a deal then I will consider it and prepared to make a decision. I will not turn a blind eye to the other clubs. I am willing to try every option out."

Maidstone United manager Alan Walker has advised the youngster to take his time before securing a deal with a new team.

"He is a smashing kid and has heaps of potential to make it in the game."

Club chairman Paul Bowden-Brown hopes that whatever side Smalling chooses, they will offer the Ryman Premier side some form of compensation as the player is not on contract.

He said: "It is a shame that he has not played many games for us this year, but he is testament to our youth system. He has worked through the ranks and shows just how good our system is. Hopefully, the club will compensate us or organise a friendly."

Tournament to putt club among elite

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

THE London Golf Club is planning to make this summer's European Open a stepping stone to make it one of the highest-profile courses in the country.

The club, near Ash, won the right to host the prestigious tournament – as exclusively predicted last week by Kent on Sunday. The decision by the European Tour saw the club enter the country's elite group of courses, but staff at the course are hoping it is the start of something bigger.

Heath Harvey, general manager at the London Golf Club (LGC), said everyone's focus was on this summer's event, but admitted there were plans to take the club to another level by hosting the tournament in successive years.

He told KoS: "We will be massively busy between now and the end of June so we have to be single-minded and not look beyond it. We are going to make sure we cater for this tournament in the best way we can, which would make it more likely to get it again in the future.

"It was always within our long term aim to be a championship course of the same calibre as Wentworth."

Sport

European Open set to attract top players to the county

CLUB'S DRIVE TO STAGE TOP TOURNAMENT

GAME PLAN: London Club chiefs say staging the European Open will put the club among the finest in the country and (inset), how KoS reported the news of the club's tournament coup last week

Success

Emulating the world-famous Surrey club is an ambitious target, but one the LGC feel is possible over time.

The club's two courses are within 800 acres which means the 50,000 fans expected over the four days in July can be handled more easily than at many other courses.

Harvey believes this, plus the success the club had in hosting the London Seniors Masters for the last three years, was instrumental in the club's successful bid.

He said: "I think hosting the Seniors opened our eyes to tournament golf. Perhaps it was a statement of intent to the European Tour we are capable of holding big events.

"It is about recognising this tournament is 20 times bigger. We almost have to forget everything we have learned and write a new game plan."

The LGC are planning a strategy to bring the course up to championship standard. They are unlikely to make any fundamental changes, but six holes could receive new tees.

Despite the tens of thousands of spectators expected and all the other attention which comes with hosting a major event, the club are expecting to initially make a loss.

Harvey said: "I don't think staging tournaments are really about making a profit, but you recoup that cost in other ways.

"A lot of golfers are passionate about playing championship courses so they are prepared to pay more to play and become a member.

"They are the fringe benefits, but they don't count for anything if you don't put on a good event."

Keep up with the county's sporting action
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Stones to roll back into town

AFTER 20 years in the wilderness, Maidstone United are finally heading back to the county town.

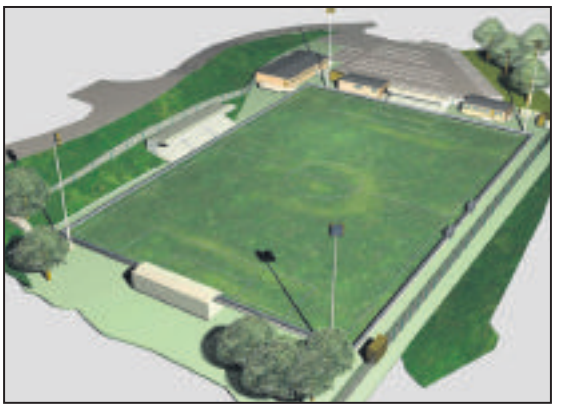
Chairman Paul Bowden-Brown revealed on Monday that Oliver Ash, managing director of French company Richmond Developments, has bought a 25 per cent stake in the club, which will enable the Stones to move into their new ground at Whatman Way.

The club has tabled a Football Foundation bid to the FA which will put them in a draw to receive a grant. They will have to wait up to 10 weeks to find out the result and if successful, the club plan to use the money they have been allocated to build a ground ready for the 2009/10 season.

Bowden-Brown told Kent on Sunday: "We will get an amount of money. If we do not get the amount we want then we will have to drop the level of ground we want to build.

"The building of the ground will begin this year and we will have to raise more money to improve the ground over the coming years.

"The foundation work is completed now so the next step will be to get a power supply."



PLANS: Artist's impression of the Stones' new Whatman Way ground

However, the Stones have revealed they will be drafting in an artificial 3G pitch, similar to the one used by England in Russia late last year.

However, the surface cannot be used for the latter stages of the FA Cup, if the club were to progress in the competition.

Bowden-Brown said: "The plastic pitch is a revenue stream. We want this new ground to be a community facility and I hope the pitch will be used by schools, youth teams and of course our first team.

"We do need to have a good cup run. We will have to work a way round that if we do go on a long cup run by playing elsewhere.

"Also, the Blue Square League have not said 'yes' to our artificial pitch, but we hope that in time they will change their minds."

The pitch proposal has been passed by the Ryman League, but chairman Alan Turney believes Maidstone should let visiting teams have an allotted amount of time on the pitch before the match.

He said: "We had a meeting with representatives of all the clubs in the Ryman League and only two out of 66 clubs were not in favour."

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Stimson wants cheers, not jeers

GILLINGHAM manager Mark Stimson believes half of the club's supporters do not back him as his side prepare for a battle to avoid relegation from League One.

The 40-year-old is four months into his first job at a league club, but despite significant changes in personnel, he is struggling to turn the team's fortunes around.

In recent weeks a section of fans have booed the team, unhappy not only with the results, but also the side's uninspiring performances.

Stimson understands the frustrations and thinks many fans do not support him.

He said: "Personally, I would probably say it was about 50/50.

"I think some of the supporters will be saying 'I've heard all this before', the last two or three years we have heard it and it hasn't changed.

"Now they are hearing it from me and who am I to say I'm any different to any of those other managers, but I have got great belief in my own ability and the players we are bringing into this club."

Before yesterday's game against Huddersfield, Gills had picked up 18 points from 18 league games during Stimson's four-month reign.

Even a victory yesterday would not calm fears among many supporters about a return to the fourth tier for the first time since 1996.

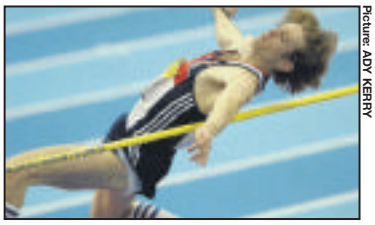
Stimson insists the mood of the fans does not surprise him, but is confident about winning them round eventually.

He said: "I'm sure in time the fans will come round to their own decision, but at this moment I would probably say if you had 5,000 supporters it would be split down the middle, some are probably with me and some are probably not.

"You are never going to please everyone because that's impossible to do. It's an entertainment business and the last couple of games at home we have not done that, I would be the first to admit that."

Picture: PHIL HOUGHTON

PRESSURE: Gills boss Mark Stimson



Picture: ADY KERRY

RAISING THE BAR: Martin Lloyd is focused on a place for the Olympics in Beijing

High hopes

THREE athletes from Kent represented Great Britain with mixed results against the world's best at the Birmingham Grand Prix last weekend.

It was high jumper Martin Lloyd from Bexley and Commonwealth champion Lisa Dobriskey who impressed a bumper crowd for the event at the National Indoor Arena.

Lloyd, who only returned to the sport in 2006 after suffering two career threatening injuries, produced a solid performance clearing 2.15m to earn a bronze medal.

He said: "It was a great experience. Just to be selected for the Grand Prix against some of the best athletes in the world was a dream come true.

"I was up against one of my heroes, Stefan Holm. I was in awe at the event and I have to say it affected me slightly. I didn't jump as high as I would have liked or know I can do, but I am very pleased with the bronze medal."

Dobriskey also claimed a bronze medal in the 3,000m, with a season's best time of 8:50.42.

She was only beaten by Ethiopia's Gelete Burka and Portugal's Jessica Augusto. However, she managed to beat rival Helen Clitheroe, who edged out Dobriskey at the UK Championships earlier this month.

Sprinter Montell Douglas had a tough weekend in the 60m sprint, falling in the second heat. Her season's best time of 7.38 seconds was not enough to secure a place in the final.

Brands gets in gear for the new season

TOM HOWARD previews this year's action at the world-famous Brands Hatch circuit

ALTHOUGH Brands Hatch has distanced itself from ever hosting a Formula One return, the circuit has a packed programme of meetings this season that could throw up a number of Kent champions.

At the season launch this month, track chief Jonathan Palmer admitted the Kent circuit would have to invest up to £40 million to host F1 races and told Kent on Sunday he couldn't imagine the championship ever coming back to the county.

Despite this, he is looking forward to another action-packed year at the Kent circuit, which includes popular championships such as A1 Grand Prix, World & British Superbikes and three touring car series.

Palmer told KoS: "We are extremely happy with the line up of events we have got this year. The big events often make a loss, but it is great for the fans to come and see the likes of A1 GP and DTM cars race at high speeds around the track. They do add prestige and have put Brands Hatch back on the map."

New for the coming season are changes to the final corner of the circuit, Clearways. A new tarmac run off area has been installed in a bid to improve the experience for spectators.

Anniversary

Palmer added: "We have done it for the fans and the racing. In the past, if someone went off there then more often than not the race would be delayed and even red flagged."

Taking the chequered flag for the first time this season will be the return of truck racing to the Indy circuit, with Kent pinning their hopes on Aylesford racer Graham Powell.

Meanwhile, the British Touring Car Championship celebrates its 50th anniversary this year with two meetings opening and closing the series. Reigning champion Fabrizio Giovanardi will hope to use his experience to secure another title.

He said: "The circuit is very different to the tracks I have driven on in the past. It can be very difficult to overtake and it is one of those tracks where the drivers' skill can really make the difference.

"In the British Championship there is a lot of contact and you have to be clever by using all your experience."

The British Superbike Championship (BSB) comes to the circuit twice with the first meeting on April 4-6. This year, Kent has three real hopes for the title. Sheppey rider Shane Byrne and Ashford-born Leon Camier will be racing for the same Airwaves Ducati team, who were runners-up last year, while Maidstone's Scott Smart will feature on a new Hawk Kawasaki machine. The World Superbike Championship will return to Brands Hatch in August.

BSB runner-up Leon Haslam said: "I think Shakey on the factory Ducati is going to be strong. He is always going to be strong, whatever bike he is racing on, and I am looking forward to some close battles with him this season. The team is one of the best in the paddock."

The final round of A1 GP will draw one of Brands Hatch's biggest crowds of the season. The series is a unique one-make championship. Drivers from around the world will drive for their county in the World Cup of Motorsport. Last year, Great Britain driver Robbie Kerr won the feature race at Brands.

He said: "The circuit is unique. The types of corners here are hard to find anywhere else in the world. The difference with A1 GP is I am representing my country. Everyone is out there wearing their national colours and it is the only series where you can hear the fans cheer over the noise of the engines."

All the latest county sporting action
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SEASON DATES AT BRANDS

MARCH 24 EASTER	MONDAY TRUCK SUPERPRIX
MARCH 29-30	BRITISH TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP
APRIL 4-6	BRITISH SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONSHIP
MAY 2-4	A1 GP WORLD CUP OF MOTORSPORT
MAY 24-26	MASTERS HISTORIC FESTIVAL
JUNE 28-29	HISTORIC SUPERPRIX
JULY12-13	FORMULA 3 AND BRITISH GT
JULY 26-27	WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP
AUGUST 1-3	WORLD SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONSHIP
AUGUST 29-31	DTM
SEPTEMBER 20-21	BRITISH TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP
OCTOBER 11-12	BRITISH SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONSHIP
NOVEMBER 2	TRUCK SUPERPRIX

New chief at The Valley

A FORMER Kent businessman will become the new plc chairman of Charlton Athletic after a series of changes behind the scenes at the Premier League hopefuls.

Last weekend the Addicks announced they were hoping to raise £20 million through a new share issue, although the money will be used to support the club's ongoing operation rather than as a transfer kitty for manager Alan Pardew.

And as part of the plans, which must be approved by shareholders on March 10, former Entrepreneur of the Year, Derek Chappell, will take the reins of the plc and concentrate on the club's corporate and financial strategy.

Richard Murray, who had been plc chairman for 12 years, becomes football club chairman and will continue to work closely with Pardew on football matters.

Lifelong Charlton fan Chappell grew up in Medway, and is co-owner of Healthcare Scotland. He worked for the NHS for 18 years before setting up a number of private hospitals and clinics in England, Scotland and Canada.

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GOLF
European Open a big boost for county club **78**

MOTORSPORT
Brands Hatch revs up for new season of racing **79**

Picture: ADY KERRY

MIN'S BIG GAMBLE

Ex-Kent and England ace aims to leave opposition in a spin as he eyes poker career

NEW GAME FACE: Min Patel is set to become a professional poker player

By **GLENN PEARSON**

KENT stalwart Min Patel has planned a future of turning cards rather than a cricket ball after announcing his retirement from the game following 19 seasons with the county.

The county's spinner is used to playing in front of a packed St Lawrence Ground, and that should stand him in good stead as he looks to take up a career as a professional poker player.

Patel, 37, announced his retirement from the game last week after failing to recover from an elbow operation and is now set to follow Australian spin legend Shane Warne into pro poker.

He told Kent on Sunday: "I am planning to get a lot better at poker and I will be taking it a bit more seriously now.

"I play a lot of tournaments and I play online. As I have been playing cricket I haven't been able to go abroad and get much live experience, but I am hoping to change that. I play it quite seriously, I wouldn't say it's a profession yet but it is a hobby that is of great significance."

After starting his career with the club in 1989, the left-arm spinner went on to play 208 first-class games for Kent, claiming 630 wickets and scoring 6, 945 runs.

Despite a long and distinguished career, he can still remember his first game and his introduction to the county circuit.

"I can remember my debut as though it was yesterday," he said. "It was against Middlesex at Canterbury. I bowled to Mark Ramprakash from the Nakington Road end and I remember he played the ball back to me. I got bowled by Angus Fraser for three I think and got figures of 1-34.

"I have had a decent career and didn't think I would play anywhere near that long, so I am very happy.

"Although the elbow is fine, being asked to bowl 40-50 overs in cold conditions might have made it react. It was the right decision and it just fell into place really."

Memories

Patel made his debut for England in 1996 during the Test series against India. Bowling against the likes of Sachin Tendulkar was a baptism of fire for the spinner and he was only given one more chance for his country.

Although regarded as one of the best left-arm spinners on the county circuit, Patel can count himself unlucky to not have added to his two Test caps.

He said: "My memories of playing for England were great and I loved every minute of it. I remember being left out of the second Test at Lords, which was the lowest point of my cricketing life.

"I didn't get much of a bowl at Edgbaston, and at Trent Bridge I didn't bowl as well as I could so that was my Test career. It was short and sweet, but I wouldn't swap those two games for anything in the world."

Patel revealed he was called to the England Academy at Loughborough in 2005 after Ashley Giles suffered an injury during the Test series against Pakistan, but Duncan Fletcher opted for veteran Shaun Udal, which proved to be the closest he came to representing England again.

He said: "Maybe Kent is not a fashionable county, stuck on the south-east coast. If you get wickets and runs at Lords or the Oval you are probably going to get more press recognition and probably more televised cricket. In this day and age we do not seem to be televised as often as the other counties but that is one way of getting your name out there."

Patel points to Andrew Symonds and Carl Hooper as the two best players he has ever played with because of their ability to change a game entirely on their own, and to the 12 wickets he took against Lancashire at Litham as his most memorable moment.

As for Kent's future, he believes the county has the right players to make an assault on the One-Day competitions, but admits an overseas player with a proven record is needed if the club is to make an impression in the County Championship.

He said: "I am very optimistic about our chances in One-Day cricket and Twenty20. Whether we can compete for the County Championship I am not completely sure – it will be interesting to see who the overseas player is. The key to it is finding a bowler that can blow away sides and can change the game."

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